

NEW JERSEY VETERANS GUIDE



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

NEW JERSEY VETERANS GUIDE

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
James E. McGreevey, Governor**

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
Brigadier General Glenn K. Rieth
The Adjutant General**

**Colonel (Ret) Emil H. Philibosian
Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs**

A publication of the
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As a "guide," this booklet does not contain the complete details or descriptions of federal or state legislated eligibility requirements or program components for included programs, entitlements and services. The intent of this booklet is not as a legal reference and should not be cited as such in applying for any entitlement or service. It is also not the intent of this booklet to contain complete details of every entitlement. Complete eligibility requirements and entitlement features should be obtained from the administering source by calling the phone number provided or a veterans service officer.

Phone numbers, addresses and services are subject to change.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
PO BOX 001
TRENTON
08625

JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
GOVERNOR

As the Commander-in-Chief of the New Jersey National Guard, and as the son of a former Marine, I recognize that the dedication and sacrifice of the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces are too great to be taken for granted. As Governor, I am personally committed to meeting the needs of the 670,000 veterans throughout the Garden State.

My Administration has set a high bar when it comes to the treatment of our veterans. We successfully fought to provide an additional \$13.3 million for the Veterans Property Tax Reduction Program, increasing the Veteran deduction to \$250.

I have made it a priority to provide our veterans with the health care and living facilities that they have earned. This spring, we will open the newly renovated Old Glory Wing at the Veterans Memorial Home in Menlo Park, and we recently began construction on the Veterans Memorial Home in Vineland. My Administration has also worked to address the shortage of qualified nursing care in New Jersey.

This Administration has also increased benefits for our newest veterans. I recently signed legislation that provides for a civil service hiring preference for those veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. We also extended benefits including a veteran's retirement allowance and entitlement to the veterans property tax deduction.

Unfortunately, too many of our veterans are unaware or unfamiliar with the many benefits made available to them. Now, with the help of Adjutant General Glenn Rieth, my Administration has developed a revised edition of the New Jersey Veterans Guide to ensure you stay informed about all the benefits you are entitled to. Inside these pages you will find current information and developments about both State and Federal programs and services.

Once again thank you for your dedicated service. I am proud that we are serving those who have served our country.

With all good wishes,


James E. McGreevey

*Please let us
serve those -
who served our
nation.*



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
POST OFFICE BOX 340
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JAMES E. MCGREEVEY
Governor
Commander-in-Chief

☆
GLENN K. RIETH
Brigadier General
The Adjutant General

I am proud to introduce the revised New Jersey Veterans Guide, first published in July 1992.

This edition incorporates a host of revisions, new information and sources, which will continue to provide timely and invaluable assistance to New Jersey's 670,000 Veterans. The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs undertook extensive research and preparation in the revision of the Veterans Guide as it strives to meet its critical mission of providing our Veterans with accurate and relevant information on the wide array of available State and Federal benefits and entitlements. Our mission assumes even greater importance considering the reality that all too many of New Jersey's Veterans and their families are unaware of or do not know to avail themselves of the wide range of available entitlements, benefits or services. Concurrently, a considerable number of important changes and additional entitlements have been enacted by State and Federal Legislatures since the Global War Against Terrorism was joined. We continue to reach out to our Veterans and believe the newly revised Veterans Guide will be a useful reference source in providing information and answers. All Veterans and their families are encouraged to contact our Veterans Service Officers who are conveniently located throughout our State and are qualified to provide additional in-depth information regarding any salient questions or concerns of our Veterans whose courageous service and great sacrifice defended the freedom and liberty we hold so dear.

GLENN K. RIETH
Brigadier General, NJARNG
The Adjutant General

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Special note about the DD-214 commonly called Discharge Papers

Your Separation Paper from active duty, commonly called Discharge Papers, (DD-214) or WD Form 53-55 for World War II veterans) is your most important military document. In this book we use DD-214, Discharge Papers and Separation Papers interchangeably. For World War II veterans your equivalent is the WD Form 53-55. When applying for veteran benefits, your most important document is your DD-214. Almost all benefits require that you submit a copy of your DD-214. Never send away your original documents! Always submit a **copy** and keep your original. State Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) can certify original DD-214s for VA purposes.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs



The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

For many veterans and their family members, keeping up with the constant changes in the rules, regulations and eligibility criteria for veterans entitlements is not paramount in their lives. Many believe that the information they received when leaving the service has not changed, so any changes, whether good or bad, that affect those entitlements and their eligibility may be overlooked. Entitlements added or lost may go unnoticed, until it is too late. State entitlements may be unknown. The information a World War II veteran received when leaving the service, in many cases, is different today -- in some cases, much different.

For those leaving the military now, the transition to civilian life can be just as difficult as the transition made when entering the military, frequently more so.

For disabled veterans, the adjustment can be even more complex and frustrating since the costs for required special services and medical attention are constantly rising, and jobs may be scarce.

If there are times when you feel frustrated, discouraged or abandoned, or have questions that need to be answered, there is a place to turn for help -- the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Has your disability case been denied by the VA? Are you having a problem with your military pension? Do you need information on educational entitlements or home loans? Have you lost your discharge papers and need them replaced? Those are just a few of the many questions the department's veterans service officers deal with daily; the kind of problems the

department is prepared to help you with. Our veterans service officers can provide assistance in obtaining state and federal entitlements, and give advice and support to the veteran re-entering civilian life.

The state of New Jersey provides many entitlements and services for those who served in the Armed Forces. Although most veterans entitlements are federally funded and administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), state entitlements are in addition to those and are very significant.

To qualify for most services a veteran must have completed at least 90 days of active duty in the Armed Forces (except for training purposes) and have a discharge other than dishonorable. Veterans who were discharged before 90 days due to service connected disabilities are also eligible. Additionally, spouses, widows, widowers and parents of members of the military killed during a time of war and certain merchant seamen who served in active, ocean-going service from Dec. 7, 1941, to Aug. 15, 1945, may be eligible for certain federal entitlements. Receiving federal entitlements does not disqualify a veteran from receiving those offered by the state.

The Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs has three divisions. The Division of Veterans Healthcare Services oversees the operations of the state's long-term care veterans homes and home health care programs. The Division of Veterans Programs oversees the veterans service offices, other state entitlement programs and services; maintains the toll-free information line, veteran's preference determinations, veteran's status determinations, the blind and catastrophic veteran pension entitlements and state-owned museums. The Division of Veterans Services oversees the state's Veterans Cemetery, the operation of the states' Homeless Veterans Transitional Housing Program, and the State Approving Agency which is responsible for certifying the VA funded educational and training program, and the state-owned monuments and memorials.

Additionally, the department, along with other state and municipal agencies, administers many other programs important to veterans and their families, such as pensions for certain disabled veterans, tuition assistance for war orphans, real estate tax deductions and exemptions, and civil service.

Some entitlements (e.g. state property tax deduction) require the veteran to have served during a

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

specified war period. New Jersey "war period" dates are listed in the box below.

For state entitlements, merchant marines must have a DD-214 which establishes 90 days active service during the state's designated World War II period. Upon discharge, veterans should contact their local veterans service officer for information. Office locations are listed in Appendix B.

The Division of Veterans Healthcare Services operates three modern long-term care nursing homes located in Vineland, Menlo Park and Paramus. The homes are inspected and licensed annually by the New Jersey Department of Health and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Comprehensive services and a deep concern for the residents go hand-in-hand at New Jersey's three state-operated veterans nursing homes. Around-the-clock medical and nursing care is provided by a full-time staff of physicians, registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and trained nursing assistants. Rehabilitative services, such as recreational and physical therapies, are provided under the direct supervision of licensed therapists. A wide range of other medical services is also offered. These include dental, podiatry,

and psychiatric and dermatological care. Resident accommodations are assigned based on care required and availability, and are private, semi-private or four-bed rooms, each equipped with a nurse-call system for immediate nursing care. In spacious dining rooms, residents are provided with wholesome meals prepared under the supervision of licensed dietitians. Tray service is available when necessary and special care is given to individually prescribed diets.

For the convenience and comfort of the residents, the homes feature fully equipped beauty and barber shops, lounges for socializing and watching television, outdoor patios and recreation areas, picnic grounds and chapels for religious services for all faiths.

Recreational activities include gardening; ceramics and other arts and crafts, cooking, bingo, shopping trips, music, art and pet therapy, programs, movies, dinner trips, fishing excursions, billiards, bowling and trips to sporting events.

The facilities are open to veterans who served on active duty and were honorably discharged, to the veteran's spouse, and to spouses and parents of members of the military who were killed in action

New Jersey War Dates

World War I	April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918
World War II	September 16, 1940 - December 31, 1946
Korea	June 23, 1950 - January 31, 1955
Vietnam	December 31, 1960 - May 7, 1975
Lebanon Crisis	July 1, 1958 - November 1, 1958*
Lebanon	September 26, 1982 - December 1, 1987*
Grenada	October 23, 1983 - November 21, 1983*
Panama	December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990*
Persian Gulf	August 2, 1990 - February 28, 1991*
Somalia	December 5, 1992 - March 31, 1994*
Bosnia and Herzegovina	November 20, 1995 - June 20, 1998* (Operations Joint Endeavor/Joint Guard)
Haiti	September 19, 1994 - March 31, 1995*
Operation Enduring Freedom	On or after September 11, 2001*
Operation Iraqi Freedom	March 19, 2003 - Present*

*Must have served at least 14 days in combat zone.
Combat zone qualification is most frequently indicated by an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

during a period of war (Gold Star Parent). A spouse or widow/widower must be at least 50 years of age and must have been married to the veteran for a period of not less than 10 years.

Preference is given to applicants who were state residents for at least two years immediately prior to application for admission. Applicants must meet certain asset limitation criteria. Members pay according to ability based on income.

Locations and phone numbers of the facilities may be found in Appendix A.

The BG William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery provides eligible veteran residents of New Jersey the opportunity to be interred in a state-operated cemetery dedicated to them. Applicant to be interred must be a legal resident of the state of New Jersey at the time of death or have lived at least 50% of his or her life within the state.

Located on 225 acres in a picturesque setting of partially-wooded land in Arnetown, North Hanover Township, Burlington County, the cemetery features a modern, nondenominational chapel/administration building. Areas are provided for the interment of those cremated and for those veterans whose remains have never been recovered.

The cemetery will accommodate 215,000 veterans and eligible family members. Burials are free and are available to service members who died while on active duty or to veterans whose last active service ended under other than dishonorable or undesirable conditions. Also eligible are members of any reserve component of the Armed Forces (Army National Guard, Air National Guard or the Reserve Officers Training Corps of the Army, Navy and Air Force) who dies under honorable conditions while on active duty for training or performing full-time service; any member of a reserve component who has attained 20 years of service creditable for retired pay; certain World War II Merchant Marines and those who have attained veteran status. Reserve component members will be charged a minimum fee for each interment.

Burial entitlements include a plot for the veteran, spouse and eligible dependents; grave liner; interment service; use of the chapel; a U.S. bronze grave marker and granite base; and maintenance in perpetuity, all at no charge to the veteran or veteran's family.

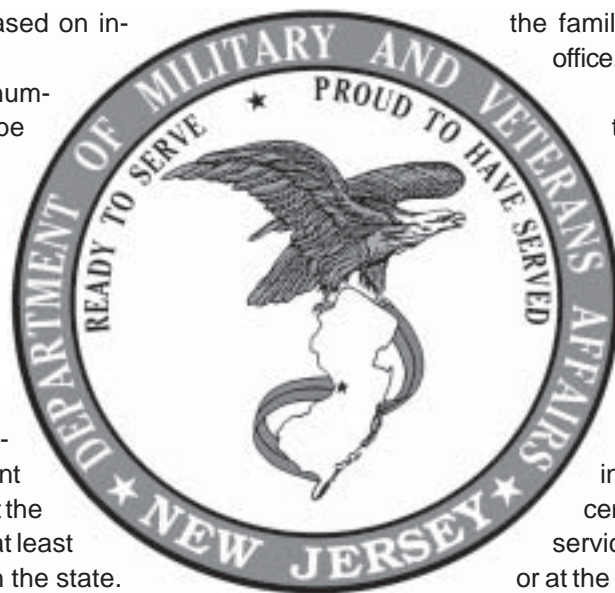
Requests for burial may be made at the time of death through the funeral director. Request for interment of cremated remains may be made by the family directly to the cemetery office.

Eligible dependents include the veteran's spouse, unmarried children under the age of 21 and unmarried adult children who became incapable of self support before reaching the age of 21 because of mental or physical impairment.

Veterans are encouraged to pre-register their intent to be interred at the cemetery at any state veterans service office listed in Appendix B or at the cemetery. For location and phone number of the cemetery see Appendix A.

Through its network of regional Veterans Service offices, the Division of Veterans Programs provides the state's 600,000 veterans and their dependents with information and guidance in filing claims. Trained veterans service officers (VSO) at those offices also assist veterans with issues pertaining to employment, education, burial, counseling, housing, social and medical services, and other areas of concern to veterans and their families.

Office locations and phone numbers are listed in Appendix B.



**New Jersey
Department of
Military and
Veterans Affairs
Toll Free Number
1-800-624-0508**

United States Department of Veterans Affairs

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was established March 15, 1989, with Cabinet rank, succeeding the Veterans Administration and assuming responsibility for providing federal benefits to veterans and their dependents. Headed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, VA is the second largest of the 14 Cabinet departments and operates nationwide programs of health care, assistance services and national cemeteries.

Today, VA provides the world's most comprehensive and diverse programs of benefits for veterans and dependents.

For online access to the VA booklet, "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents," go to www.va.gov and click on Public Affairs under Today's VA and then click on Feature Items. That booklet lists federal benefits available to veterans and their dependents.



Medals

New Jersey Benefits

New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal

The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal was originally issued in 1858 for those who had distinguished themselves in the New Jersey Militia, but was infrequently used until re-authorized by Governor Kean in 1988.

After the Spanish American War, the Mexican Border Expedition and again after World War I, the State of New Jersey minted special medals for returning NJ veterans to honor their service.

After WWII, Korea, Vietnam and subsequent combat actions no such medal was available. The State of New Jersey was looking for an appropriate way to honor all of these returning combat veterans and acknowledge the debt the state owed them for their service. The NJ DSM was then authorized for that purpose. It is New Jersey's highest military award.

Eligibility - New Jersey residents who are eligible meet all of the following:

- ~ combat veterans as defined by law.
- ~ currently be a resident of New Jersey.
- ~ have been a resident of the state at the time they entered into military service.
- ~ have been honorably discharged.
- ~ have proof of having served in combat theater while on active duty during wartime.

Oak Leaf Cluster

Those recipients whose service was recognized by the award of the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Medal or equivalent medal will receive a NJ Distinguished Service Medal with an oak leaf cluster.

Posthumously - The DSM can be awarded posthumously to the next-of-kin of a veteran who meets the criteria.

Application - Anyone interested in applying for the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal should send a completed application together with copies of all pertinent information, discharge document award citation, honorable discharge, etc. to:

NJ Department of Military And Veterans Affairs
Attn: DVP-VBB

PO Box 340

Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

Note - Be sure to include full name, home address and daytime telephone number.

Contact - For more information call 609-530-

Medals



New Jersey medals left to right: New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal, New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal, New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal and the New Jersey Korean Service Medal.

6980.

New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal approved November 13, 2000

"The Legislature finds and declares the year 1998 marks the 25th anniversary of the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and the National Liberation Front's provisional revolutionary government signing an agreement to end the war in Vietnam. The conflict that was declared over in 1973 was a uniquely important event in the political and domestic history of Southeast Asia and of this country. The United States' involvement in that conflict resulted in great domestic turmoil and dispute in this nation, as well as more than 50,000 American soldiers killed, including 1,515 from New Jersey. It is fitting and proper for this State to recognize and honor those among its residents who served proudly and those who died bravely in that conflict on the 25th anniversary of its ending, because in 1973 those same individuals were often ignored or scorned for their service to their country."

Eligibility - Veterans who meet all of the following:

- ~ are currently residents of New Jersey.
- ~ were on active duty in any branch of the

armed forces of the United States in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos or Cambodia or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after December 31, 1960 and on or before May 7, 1975.

~ have received an honorable discharge from such service or currently serving.

~ meet one of the following four "in country" requirements:

(a) were attached to or served for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations.

(b) were attached to or served for one or more days aboard a United States Naval vessel directly supporting military operations.

(c) participated as a crew member in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Vietnam and contiguous waters directly supporting military operations.

(d) served on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in Vietnam or contiguous areas, except that this time limit may be waived for persons participating in actual combat operations.

Posthumous - The surviving spouse or immediate family member of any resident of the State meeting the above requirements for a medal and who was killed while on active duty or died after receiving an honorable discharge from the armed forces may apply for a posthumous awarding of the medal.

Note - No person shall be entitled to more than one award of the medal.

New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal

This medal is awarded to those combat veterans who were not residents of New Jersey when they entered the military service, but who are current residents of New Jersey and have resided in the state for the previous five years. All other qualifications are the same as for the Distinguished Service Medal. The Meritorious Service Medal is a lesser medal than the Distinguished Service Medal. To apply for the MSM, send the application to the same address as the DSM.

New Jersey Korean Service Medal

Approved February 3, 2003

The Legislature finds and declares July 27, 2003 will mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the

Medals

armistice which ended the Korean War. The conflict, often referred to as the "Forgotten War" began on June 25, 1950 when the North Korean Army crossed the border and invaded South Korea in an unprovoked attack. Their goal was the reunification of the Korean peninsula, divided after World War II along the 38th parallel. The United States involvement in that conflict resulted in 33,742 Americans dead and 92,134 Americans wounded. It is fitting and proper for this State to recognize and honor its residents who served and those who died in that conflict on the 50th anniversary of its ending.

The Adjutant General is hereby authorized to issue a medal and ribbon to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the armistice on July 27, 1953, which ended the Korean War.

Eligibility - Veterans who meet all of the following:

- ~ all residents of New Jersey who were on active duty in any branch of the armed forces of the United States in Korea, Japan, or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof on or after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955, who have been given an honorable discharge for their service and:

- ~ were attached to or served for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations; or

- ~ were attached to or served for one or more days aboard a United States Naval vessel directly supporting military operations; or

- ~ participated as a crew member in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Korea or contiguous areas, except that this time limit may be waived for persons participating in actual combat operations; or

Posthumous - the surviving spouse or immediate family member of any resident of the State meeting the requirements for the medal who was killed while on active duty or who died after receiving an honorable discharge from the armed forces.

Time Frame - The Adjutant General shall select an appropriate design for the award no later than the fourth month following enactment of this act and shall issue the award to qualified persons beginning no later than the eighth month following enactment.

Note - No person shall be entitled to more than one award of the medal and ribbon.

Application - Anyone interested in applying for the New Jersey Korean Service Medal should send a

completed Application For Award/Program form together with copies of all pertinent information, discharge documents, award citation, honorable discharge, etc., located in Appendix I, and mail to same address as the Distinguished Service Medal.

Federal Benefits

Replacement of Medals

Veterans may request issuance or replacement of their medals and awards. Family members may only request medals and awards of living veterans by obtaining their signed authorizations. For deceased veterans, requests will be accepted from next-of-kin (unremarried widow or widower, son or daughter, father or mother, brother or sister of the deceased veteran.)

Contact - For information contact a State Veterans Service Office office listed in Appendix B.

Education Benefits

New Jersey Benefits

Operation Recognition: High School Diplomas for Veterans

The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) and the Department of Education jointly launched a program October 5, 2000 to honor World War II era veterans who left school to join the military and never received a high school diploma. Known as **Operation Recognition**, the program will award a state-endorsed high school diploma to any New Jersey veteran who left a New Jersey high school to enter military service during World War II. Because of the overwhelming success of this program, The Adjutant General and the Commissioner of Education are expanding the program to include veterans from the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Programs similar to Operation Recognition have been established in other states including New York, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Carolina, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

New Jersey veterans who are:

- ~ Current New Jersey resident.
- ~ Left a New Jersey high school directly to join the military between:

September 16, 1940 - December 31, 1946

June 23, 1950 - January 31, 1955

December 31, 1960 - May 7, 1975.

- ~ Discharged honorably or under honorable conditions.

~ All branches of service including Merchant Marine and Coast Guard are eligible.

~ Veterans who have since earned a GED are still eligible.

~ Diplomas may also be issued posthumously.

Surviving family members of eligible veterans are encouraged to apply.

Details - Paperwork needed.

~ A **copy** of your DD-214 or discharge papers, do **NOT** send originals!

~ Name and address of the high school attended.

~ The year you would have graduated.

~ Your name, address and daytime phone.

Contact - Send your request to Operation Recognition, New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340. For more information call 609-530-6854.

State Approving Agency

This office approves and supervises programs for the G.I. Bill for use in colleges, non-college degree programs, apprenticeship, on-the-job training, flight, and correspondence schools.

Contact - For programs or specific information on the approval of a specific program, contact the Veterans Assistance office at the College for information, or call 609-530-6849.

POW-MIA Tuition Benefit Program

Free undergraduate college tuition is available to any child born or adopted before, during or after the period of time his or her parent was officially declared a prisoner of war (POW) or person missing in action (MIA) after Jan. 1, 1960. The POW-MIA must have been a New Jersey resident at the time he or she entered the service or whose official residence is in New Jersey. The child must attend either a public or private institution in New Jersey. A copy of DD-1300 must be furnished with the application.

War Orphans Tuition Assistance

Children of those service personnel who died while in the military or due to service-connected disabilities, or who are officially listed as missing in action by the U.S. Dept. of Defense may claim \$500 per year for four years of college or equivalent training. To qualify, the child must be a resident of New Jersey for at least one year immediately preceding the filing of the application and be between the ages of 16 and 21 at the time of application. The veteran must have been a state resident.



Education Benefits

Veterans Tuition Credit Program

The Veterans Tuition Credit Program provides additional education benefits to veterans eligible for federally funded education programs and who served on active duty from December 31, 1960 to May 7, 1975 and who were legal residents of New Jersey at the time of induction into the Armed Forces or at the time of discharge from active service or for a period not less than one year prior to making application. The amount of the award is \$400 annually or \$200 per semester for full-time attendance and \$100 per semester for part-time. For further information contact your school official in charge of veteran's affairs or by calling New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 609-530-6854. Deadlines for applying are October 1 and March 1.

New Jersey Benefits for Current National Guardsmen

Eligibility - New Jersey National Guardsman (Army or Air) who are eligible must:

- ~ Have completed Initial Active Duty Training.
- ~ Be in good standing with your unit.

Contact - For more information about the following three programs contact the NJARNG Education Center at 3650 Saylors Pond Road, Ft. Dix, NJ 08640 or by phone 609-562-0654 Fax: 609-562-0699. WWW.STATE.NJ.US/MILITARY/EDUCATION

Tuition Assistance - Pays up to 75% of tuition costs at Accredited schools only with a maximum of \$100 per undergraduate credit and a maximum of \$170 per graduate credit. Tuition Assistance may **NOT** be used together with any other federal program (i.e. the GI Bill) Applications available at: WWW.YOUCANRETAIN.NET

DANTES Tuition Assistance - Pays up to 75% of tuition costs for external degrees (Distance Learning Only.) There was a Fiscal Year 2001 cap of \$2000 per Guardsman. Additional info at: [HTTP://VOLED.DODED.MIL/DANTES/DL/INDEX.HTM](http://VOLED.DODED.MIL/DANTES/DL/INDEX.HTM)

New Jersey National Guard Tuition (Waiver) Program - 30 Participating State Schools.

- ~ Must apply for financial aid annually (FAFSA) WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV
- ~ Complete NJDMAVA Form 621-2-R "Commander's Certification" every semester.
- ~ Maintain academic standards set by the school.

~ Each school has their own policies and procedures for administering the NJNGTP. You must find out which office is responsible for the program and meet with a representative from that office before you register. This will ensure that you follow the school's policy. For assistance at each school, contact the Veterans Affairs Representative, the Financial Aid Office or the Registrar's Office.

~ Eligible State School List

Atlantic Cape Community College
Bergen Community College
Brookdale Community College
Burlington Community College
Camden County College
County College of Morris
Cumberland County College
Essex County College
Gloucester County College
Hudson County Community College
Kean University
Mercer County Community College
Middlesex County College
Montclair State University
New Jersey City University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Ocean County College
Passaic County Community College
Ramapo College of NJ
Raritan Valley Community College
Richard Stockton College of NJ
Rowan University
Salem Community College
Sussex County Community College
The College of New Jersey
The State University of NJ - Rutgers
Union County College
Univ. of Medicine & Dentistry of NJ
Warren County Community College
William Paterson University of NJ

Civil Service Benefits

New Jersey Benefits

Effective March 1, 2001, NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs is the agency to determine veterans preference for hiring in New Jersey civil service and veterans status for New Jersey civil service pension plans.

Veterans Preference for Hiring in New Jersey Civil Service

War period veterans who pass state civil service examinations are given absolute preference over non-veterans when applying for state, county and municipal employment. Absolute preference is not extended to promotions, but if a veteran ranks highest on a promotional certification, a non-veteran cannot be offered the appointment before the veteran. Veterans with service-connected disabilities (at least 10%) who pass civil service examinations are given preference over other veterans and non-veterans for state, county and municipal employment.

Spouses, widows, widowers and the parents of disabled or deceased veterans are eligible under specific circumstances.

Eligibility - Veterans who are eligible meet one of the following categories:

~ a veteran who served at least 90 days of active duty during World War I: April 6, 1917-November 11, 1918; World War II: September 16, 1940-December 31, 1946; Korea: June 23, 1950-January 31, 1955; or Vietnam: December 31, 1960 - May 7, 1975. The active duty service during these four wars does not have to be "in country" or "in combat." Merchant Marines from World War II are eligible.

~ a veteran who served at least 14 days in a combat zone during any one of the following:

Lebanon Crisis: July 1, 1958-November 1, 1958

Lebanon peace keeping mission: September 26, 1982-December 1, 1987

Grenada peace keeping mission: October 23, 1983-November 21, 1983

Panama peace keeping mission: December 20, 1989-January 31, 1990

Persian Gulf-Operation Desert Shield/Storm: August 2, 1990-February 28, 1991

Somalia Operation Restore Hope: December 5, 1992-March 31, 1994

Operations Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard in the Republic of Bosnia or Herzegovina: November 20, 1995-June 20, 1998

Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti: September 19, 1994 - March 31, 1995

Operation Enduring Freedom on or after September 11, 2001

Operation Iraqi Freedom: March 19, 2003-present

Combat zone qualification is most frequently indicated by the receipt of an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

~ a veteran with a service connected disability of at least 10%. The veteran must have received the disability during service in one of the wars or operations listed above, although the veteran need not meet either the 90 days of active duty requirement or 14 days in combat zone requirement. A service connected disability is indicated by a federal Veterans Administration service connected disability pension being received or entitlement to receive, a U.S. military medical board finding or retired from active military service with a disability rating of 10 percent or more. Current proof of disability is required.

Family members who are eligible:

~ spouse of a disabled veteran. The veteran must be eligible for civil service veterans preference as a disabled veteran (see qualifications above), not be employed in a New Jersey civil service jurisdiction and agree to waive the preference for the duration of the spouse's employment.

~ a disabled (see qualifications above), veteran's surviving spouse who has not remarried. A copy of the Death Certificate is required with the "Veterans Preference Claim" form.

~ surviving spouse of veterans who died while on active duty in the U.S. Military service. A copy of the Report of Casualty is required with the "Veterans Preference Claim" form.

~ Gold Star Parent - parent of a veteran who died while on active duty in the U.S. Military service. A copy of the Report of Casualty is required with the "Veterans Preference Claim" form.

To Apply - Use "Civil Service Veterans Preference Claim Form" - NJDMAVA Form 05A-1. See Appendix H for a copy of the form.

To claim veterans preference, file the claim form with a **copy** of your separation papers (DD Form 214.) Mail the form to the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Bureau, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340. You must obtain a veterans preference from NJ Department of Military

Civil Service Benefits

and Veterans Affairs **BEFORE** applying for a job or a test.

Contact - For information call Veterans Benefits Bureau at 609-530-6958, 609-530-6954, or 1-800-624-0508 or visit any state Veterans Service office listed in Appendix B or the New Jersey Veterans Employment Offices listed in Appendix D.

Veterans Status for Civil Service

Pension Plans

A veteran retirement is available to qualified veterans. To qualify for veteran retirement benefits you must be in active employment until the effective date of retirement. These benefits cannot be deferred. Veterans who continue in employment covered by Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) until they are at least age 60 with 20 or more years of service credit are entitled to an annual benefit equal to one-half of the salary on which pension contributions were made in any consecutive 12-month period which would provide the largest possible benefit to the member.

Veterans who are at least age 55 with 35 or more years of service credit are entitled to an annual allowance based on the following formula: Years of Service times last 12 months salary equals Maximum Annual Allowance. Veterans benefits cannot be deferred and members must meet all the requirements to qualify. Veteran members may retire on the same basis as non-veteran members if it would result in a higher benefit.

Eligibility - Any qualified veteran (see above.) Family members are not eligible. A veteran must apply for veterans status for civil service pension plans after employment. The payroll stub will indicate "Veteran."

To Apply - Use "Application for Veteran Designation for Pension" - NJDMAVA Form 05A-02. See Appendix K for a copy of the form. To apply for Veterans Designation file the claim form with a **copy** of your separation papers (DD Form 214.) Mail the form to the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Bureau, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340. NJDMAVA will mail you a letter of qualification or denial.

Contact - For information, call Veterans Benefits Bureau at 609-530-6958, 609-530-6954, or 1-800-624-0508 or visit any state Veterans Service Office listed in Appendix B.

Other Civil Service Benefits for Veterans Preference

Note - In the following section "the board" refers to the Merit System Board. By law it consists of five members, one the Commissioner of Personnel serves as chairperson. The other members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for staggered terms of four years and until the appointment and qualification of their successors. No more than three of the five members shall be of the same political party. Three members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

Appointment of veterans. Whenever a disabled veteran or veteran shall be certified to an appointing authority from an open competitive employment list, the appointing authority shall appoint the disabled veteran or veterans in the order of ranking.

Application of statutes to promotions.

Nothing contained in New Jersey statute 11A:5-4 through 11A:5-6 shall apply to promotions, but whenever a veteran ranks highest on a promotional certification, a non-veteran shall not be appointed unless the appointing authority shall show cause before the board why a veteran should not receive such promotion.

Preference in appointment in noncompetitive division. From among those eligible for appointment in the noncompetitive division, preference shall be given to a qualified veteran. Before an appointing authority shall select a non-veteran and not appoint a qualified veteran, the appointing authority shall show cause before the board why a veteran should not be appointed. In all cases, a disabled veteran shall have preference over all others.

Preference to veterans in layoffs. When a layoff occurs, preference shall be given first to a disabled veteran and then to a veteran, but the preference shall apply only where the disabled veteran or veteran has seniority in title equal to that of a non-veteran also affected by the layoff.

Hearing on dismissal of veterans. Before any department head shall dismiss any veteran, such department head shall show cause before the board why such veteran should not be retained, at which time such veteran or veterans may be privileged to attend. The board shall be the sole judge of the facts constituting such qualification.

Civil Service Benefits

Veterans not to be discriminated against because of physical defects. Veterans suffering from any physical defect caused by wounds or injuries received in the line of duty in the military or naval forces of the United States during war service shall not be discriminated against in an examination, classification or appointment because of the defect, unless this defect, in the opinion of the board, would incapacitate the veteran from properly performing the duties of the office, position or employment for which applied.

Employment or promotion of persons awarded Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross. Any individual who has served in the Army, Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States and who has been awarded the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or Navy Cross, while a resident of this State, and any individual who has served in the United States Coast Guard and who has been awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross while a resident of this State, shall be appointed or promoted without complying with the rules of the board. The appointing authority to whom the individual applies for appointment or promotion shall, at its discretion, appoint or promote that person. Upon promotion or appointment, that person shall become subject to the rules of the board. A person who qualifies under this section shall not be limited to only one appointment or promotion.

Purchasing Military Service for Civil Service Pension - PERS

Military Service Before Enrollment - Members of Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) may purchase up to 10 years of active duty military service rendered prior to enrollment provided the member is not receiving or eligible to receive a military pension or a pension from any other state or local source for such military service.

The statute specifically provides that the employer shall not be liable for any portion of the cost to purchase. The member is responsible for the full cost of the purchase.

Partial purchase is permitted.

Military Service After Enrollment - Members may purchase military service rendered after August 1, 1974 if:

~ you were a member of a New Jersey State-administered retirement system when you entered

the peacetime military service, and

~ you return to employment within the time periods prescribed by federal law in a position covered by a New Jersey State-administered retirement system when you are discharged from or otherwise end your military service, and

~ within one year following the date of return to employment or the date initial pension contributions are certified to begin, you apply for or inquire in writing about the purchase.

To Apply Contact - A member may obtain a quotation of the cost of purchasing additional service credit by submitting a written request to: Supervisor of Purchases, Division of Pensions and Benefits, PO Box 295, Trenton, NJ 08625-0295.

It is the member's responsibility to obtain certification of the employment from the former employer for the service credit being purchased if it is not on file with the Division of Pensions and Benefits. No quotations of cost will be calculated until verification of employment is received by the Division of Pensions and Benefits.

Federal Benefits

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) - USERRA replaced the Veterans' Reemployment Rights (VRR.)

USERRA guarantees reemployed persons pension plan benefits that accrued during military service, regardless of whether the plan is a defined benefit plan or a defined contribution plan.

USERRA provides health benefits continuation for service members and their families during military service for up to 18 months.

USERRA is enforced by Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS).

Eligibility - The Act applies to persons who perform duty, voluntarily or involuntarily, in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Public Health Service commissioned corps, as well as the reserves of each. Federal training or service in the Army National Guard and Air National Guard is also included. Uniformed service includes active duty, active duty for training, inactive duty training (such as drills), and initial active duty training. USERRA covers all employees except those serving in positions where there is "no reasonable expectation that employment will continue indefinitely or for a significant period" i.e. seasonal work.

Civil Service Benefits

Basic Provisions/Requirements - Service members returning from a period of service in the uniformed services must meet five eligibility criteria to be covered by USERRA:

- ~ The person must have held a civilian job;
- ~ The person must have given notice to the employer that he or she was leaving the job for service in the uniformed services;
- ~ The period of service must not have exceeded five years;
- ~ The person must have been released from service under honorable conditions; and
- ~ The person must have reported back to the civilian job in a timely manner or have submitted a timely application for reemployment.

USERRA establishes a 5-year cumulative total on military service with a single employer, with certain exceptions allowed for call-ups during emergencies, for reserve drills and annually scheduled active duty for training, etc. USERRA also allows an employee to complete an initial period of active duty that exceeds 5 years, not including reenlistments. Under USERRA, restoration rights are based on the duration of military service rather than the type of military duty performed, e.g., active duty for training, inactive duty, etc.

Time limits for returning to work under USERRA, with the exception of fitness-for-service examinations, depend upon the duration of a person's military service. The applicable time limits are as follows:

- ~ Less than 31 days service: By the beginning of the first regularly scheduled work period after the end of the calendar day of duty plus time required to return home safely. If this is impossible or unreasonable, then as soon as possible.
- ~ 31 to 180 days: Application for reemployment must be submitted no later than 14 days after completion of a person's service. If this is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of the person, then as soon as possible.
- ~ 181 days or more: Application for reemployment must be submitted no later than 90 days after completion of a person's military service.
- ~ Service-connected injury or illness: Reporting or application deadlines are extended for up to two years for persons who are hospitalized or convalescing.

Contact - Information regarding USERRA may be obtained by dialing 1-866-487-2365.

Home Ownership Benefits

New Jersey Benefits

The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) offers low interest rate HMFA mortgages that provide veterans and their families with increased buying power and a savings of thousands of dollars in interest over the life of the loan. HMFA offers residential mortgages to United States veterans through the Veterans Administration (VA) home buyer program. Most HMFA homeownership loans are originated by private lenders that are approved to participate in the programs.

Eligibility - New Jersey residents must first be eligible for a federal VA guaranteed home loan. Contact any state Veterans Service Office in Appendix A.

Details - Veterans can apply for an HMFA mortgage for any of the following: first time and urban home buyers, police and firefighters, purchase and rehabilitation mortgages, and reverse mortgages for seniors.

More than 55 participating lenders with hundreds of locations throughout the state offer HMFA mortgage products, and can help determine the right mortgage for you.

VA home buyer loans often require no down payment and HMFA offers a below-market, fixed interest rate. Closing costs may not be included in the loan, however the seller is allowed to pay most costs, which makes it possible for a veteran to buy with virtually no cash down. Closing costs generally include VA appraisal, credit report, escrow, title evidence, recording fees, a 1% loan origination fee and discount points.

A reverse mortgage loans allow seniors (62 and over) to access the equity in their home without a monthly repayment schedule for as long as they live in the home. Loan proceeds can be taken in a lump sum, monthly payments, line of credit or some combination of these options. Loan amount is determined by property value and borrower age. Counseling is required. No restriction on value of property. No income requirements or verification.

Contact - For information on HMFA consumer mortgage programs, call 1-800-NJ-HOUSE. Speech or hearing impaired individuals may call the TTY hotline at 1-877-325-6524. New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, 637 South Clinton Avenue, PO Box 18550, Trenton, NJ 08650-2085.

Complete HMFA program information is also

Home Ownership Benefits

available at WWW.STATE.NJ.US/DCA/HMFA/

Federal VA Benefits

VA Guaranteed Home Loan

The loan is made by a lender, such as a mortgage company, savings and loan or bank. VA's guaranty on the loan protects the lender against loss if the payments are not made, and is intended to encourage lenders to offer veterans loans with more favorable terms. The amount of guaranty on the loan depends on the loan amount and whether the veteran used some entitlement previously. With the current maximum guaranty, a veteran who hasn't previously used the benefit may be able to obtain a VA loan up to \$240,000 depending on the borrower's income level and the appraised value of the property. The local VA office can provide more details on guaranty and entitlement amounts.

Note: Although the veteran may be approved for a VA home loan guarantee, the veteran still needs to have a good credit rating to obtain a loan from a lending institution, such as a bank or credit union. Contact State Veterans Service Offices listed in appendix B for more information on loans

New Jersey Property Tax Benefits

The New Jersey Property Tax Exemption and Deduction require veterans to serve during a specific war time period. See New Jersey War Dates on page 6.

NOTE: For New Jersey Property Tax Exemption and Deduction, Haiti service is **not** included as a war time period.

The definition of the dwelling house is the same for the property tax exemption and deduction.

The dwelling house is the primary legal residence. The deduction applies to cooperatives while the exemption includes condominiums.

The veteran or surviving spouse must own and occupy the house.

If the dwelling house is a multiple family building, the exemption is only granted for the portion actually occupied by the veteran or surviving spouse.

The definition of resident is the same for the property tax exemption and deduction. It is the legal domicile within the state. Seasonal or temporary residence in the state is not considered being a resident of New Jersey. Absence from the state for a period of 12 months shall be sufficient evidence of

abandonment of domicile. The burden of establishing legal domicile in the state is the claimant's burden.

New Jersey Property Tax Exemption Eligibility for Veterans who meet all of the following criteria:

- ~ Served during a specified wartime period.
- ~ Received an honorable discharge or under honorable conditions.
- ~ Rated 100 percent permanent service-connected by the VA. The 100 percent rating cannot be temporary or as a result of hospitalization, surgery or recuperation.

Eligibility for spouses who meet the following criteria:

- ~ No remarriage. Even if the marriage is terminated by death/divorce, the spouse is no longer entitled. However, if the marriage is annulled, the surviving spouse regains eligibility.
- ~ Veteran previously received exemption prior to death.
- ~ Veteran would have been found eligible if an application had been filed prior to death.

And one of the following criteria:

- ~ The veteran had to be rated 100 percent permanent VA service-connected prior to death. A spouse is not eligible if the veteran was rated less than 100 percent permanent service-connected, but died of that service-connected disability.
- ~ The veteran died in active service during wartime in any branch of the United States Armed Forces.

Application Process The application at the municipal property tax assessor's office is signed and filed with the following documentation:

- ~ property deed
- ~ discharge (DD214)
- ~ VA Property Tax Exemption Letter. The letter must be requested by contacting the VA at 1-800-827-1000. Do **NOT** submit the VA Award Letter indicating the monetary award. That may delay the effective date of the exemption.

Do **NOT** submit any medical documentation except for the VA property tax exemption letter even if the tax assessor demands it. The VA deems a veteran 100 percent permanent service-connected disabled, not the tax assessor.

The spouse may need to submit the property deed, a marriage certificate, death certificate, discharge (DD-214) to the tax assessor especially if the veteran did not claim the exemption but would have

Home Ownership Benefits

been eligible. If the veteran or surviving spouse moves to another residence (dwelling house) in the same municipality, a new application must be filed to continue the exemption.

Effective Date of Payment The exemption unlike the deduction is PRORATED from the date the veteran or spouse filed the application with ALL required documentation. EXAMPLE: A veteran completes the application on April 7, but does not submit all the documentation until May 3. The veteran's property tax exemption is effective May 3. Many tax assessors exempt the property tax January 1 of the next year. The same proration process applies to the surviving spouse.

Retroactive payment From effective date of 100 percent permanent VA service-connected disability rating is determined by each city council by resolution. The governing body has the discretion to grant a retroactive payment. They are only mandated to exempt property tax from the date the application is filed with all required documentation.

New Jersey Property Tax Deduction

There is an annual property tax deduction of two hundred and fifty dollars.

Veterans' eligibility

- ~ a citizen of the United States
- ~ resident of New Jersey
- ~ honorably discharged or released under honorable conditions from active service in a war-time period, in any branch of the U.S. Armed Services.

Surviving spouse's eligibility

- ~ The surviving wife or husband of a veteran who was a citizen of the United States and resident of New Jersey and one of the following:
- ~ Was receiving the deduction prior to the veteran's death.
- ~ Would have been eligible for the deduction had the veteran filed an application prior to death.
- ~ Has died on active duty in a wartime period.

The application process Filing an application with all required documentation prior to December 31 of the pre-tax year. Documentation includes the property deed and discharge (DD-214) for the veteran. The widow may need to submit the property deed, marriage certificate, death certificate and discharge (DD-214).

Continuance of Deduction The tax assessor **MAY** at any time require the filing of a new application

or request documentation to determine continuance of the deduction. However, the tax assessor cannot require a new application from every veteran or spouse every year.

Deduction for Cooperatives For cooperatives, the procedure is different. The manager or superintendent must complete forms indicating the names and locations of the veterans or spouses within the co-op to the tax assessor. The deduction is then granted to the co-op, the co-op is responsible to either reduce the rent by deduction amount or present a check to the veterans or spouses.

Refunds for Deductions NO RETROACTIVE payment for the deduction for any previous year(s) when an application was not filed with all supporting documentation.

Licenses

New Jersey Benefits

Professional Licenses

License to Vend Honorably discharged veterans may obtain a no-fee license to vend any goods, wares or merchandise, or solicit trade within the state (NJSA 45:24-9). Licenses are procured from the county clerks office (NJSA 45:24-10) and regulated by municipalities. Call your County Clerk to obtain additional information. Food vendors must also comply with state and local health licensing requirements. All vendors must register with the NJ Division of Revenue, and collect and remit collected sales tax on required items. To receive a tax registration application, call 609-292-1730, or start the registration online at: www.state.nj.us/njbgs. For additional information or questions call 609-530-6823.

Licenses for real estate brokers, agents and solicitors are also available at no charge to a veteran who has war time experience and a service-connected disability certified by VA. The veteran is required to take any prescribed qualifying courses and necessary state examinations. The 1947 statute providing honorably discharged wounded or disabled war veterans with a free license to operate as an insurance broker, agent or solicitor (NJSA 17:22-6) was partially repealed in 1972. In 1987, NJSA 17:22A-21 FEES; Section d provided "The commissioner may, by rule or regulation, provide for the waiving of fees for disabled war veterans of the U.S. Military Service."

No Fee Automobile Registration

Service-Connected 100% Disabled.

To be eligible, the veteran must:

~ also be eligible for the automobile financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

AND one of three injuries or diseases incurred or aggravated during active military service, a service-connected disability. These disabilities are

- (1) loss or permanent loss of use of one or both feet
- (2) loss or permanent loss of use of one or both hands
- (3) permanent impairment of vision of both eyes to a prescribed degree. Veterans with best-corrected vision no better than 20/200 or less or field defect of 20 degrees or less are considered eligible.

To apply - Application for plates and registra-

tions are processed by Motor Vehicle Services. Applications are available at local Motor Vehicle Agencies.

No Fee Automobile Registration for Medal of Honor Recipients

Medal of Honor recipients are eligible for a no-fee registration and will receive special license plates noting their award.

Contact - For information call 1-888-486-3339.

Free Hunting and Fishing Licenses

The NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife will annually issue the following items **FREE** to each qualified disabled veteran: a fire arm, bow & arrow, fishing or all around hunting license, a pheasant and quail stamp, a state duck stamp and a trout stamp. In addition, disabled veterans may apply for free permits: one bow and arrow deer permit*; one firearm (muzzleloader or shotgun) deer permit*; one spring and one fall turkey permit* for use during applicable hunting season.

*Special deer and turkey permit applications will be available at the Division offices listed below or by mail from the Trenton office. All rules and regulations pertaining to the lottery system and laws for each season still apply. In other words, you will be allowed to enter the first lottery and fall lottery for free but will not be guaranteed a permit. Your odds of winning a permit depend upon what zone and/or time period you select. Additional permits for added hunting opportunities may be purchased at the current rate of \$28.00.

Eligibility - New Jersey residents who are eligible:

~ A resident of New Jersey that has been honorably discharged, or released under honorable circumstances, from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; **and**

~ Declared by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected disability of any degree.

Verification - Applicants must provide verification of discharge and service connected disability. This may be completed by presenting the following credentials:

~ Proof of disability by producing a letter of certification from the Department of Veterans Affairs, a wallet-sized card from the VA indicating status or a photocopy of your monthly disability check indicating your sta-

Licenses

tus.

~ Proof of honorable discharge (DD-214 or similar document).

~ Proof of residency by showing a driver's license, or resident hunting/fishing license.

Details - If you wish to obtain the free hunting related offers, you must show proof of having satisfied the applicable state hunter education requirements by providing a previous year's Resident Firearm or Bow & Arrow license, All Around license, or a Resident Senior hunting license. A hunter education course completion card is also acceptable. Resident licenses from other states issued to hunters prior to establishing residency in NJ will also be accepted, if the license indicates which type of hunting it validates. Non-resident licenses from other states are **NOT** acceptable.

Contact - Documentation may be brought to a field office listed below or mailed in to the Division at the following address:

NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife

501 East State Street, 3rd floor,
PO Box 400

Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

Attn: Disabled Veteran Licensing

NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife Trenton Office

501 East State St., PO Box 400

Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

Mercer County 609-292-2965

The Northern Region Office

26 Route 173 W. Hampton

Hunterdon County 908-735-7040

The Central Region Office

386 Robbinsville/Clarksburg Road

Robbinsville

Monmouth County 609-259-2132

Nacote Creek

Rt. 9, Mile Marker 51

Port Republic

Atlantic County 609-748-2020

The Pequest Trout Hatchery

605 Pequest Road

Oxford

Warren County 908-637-4125

The Southern Region Office

220 Blue Anchor Road

Sicklerville

Gloucester County 856-629-0555

State Parks

Free admission to New Jersey State Parks for members of the New Jersey National Guard

The New Jersey Division of State parks and Forestry administers more than 325,000 acres of land. Facilities include 38 parks, 11 forest, three recreation areas, one golf course, 42 natural areas and 57 historic sites.

The New Jersey Division of State Parks and Forestry does not charge an admission fee for entrance into a State park or forest by any resident of the State who is an active member of the New Jersey National Guard who has completed Initial Active Duty Training.

As used in this section, "Initial Active Duty Training" means Basic Military Training, for members of the New Jersey Air National Guard, and Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training, for members of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

Note - This does not cover federal or local parks that are also located within the state of New Jersey. It only covers those run by the New Jersey Division of State Parks and Forestry.

Contact - New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, 501 East State Street, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625. Or call 1-800- 843-6420 or 609-984-0370.

Pensions and Compensation

New Jersey Benefits

Catastrophic Entitlements

A monthly entitlement of \$62.50.

Eligibility - The veteran or widow/widower is eligible if the veteran meets all the following criteria:

~ Is a wartime veteran. See page 8 for New Jersey approved war dates.

~ Was a legal resident of New Jersey at the time of initial induction into the Armed Services of the United States.

~ Provides proof of discharge from the Armed Services indicating character of service that was other than dishonorable or undesirable.

~ Was a legal resident of New Jersey at the time of application and continues to reside in New Jersey except for reasons of health or employment. Proof of residency may be a New Jersey driver's license, a New Jersey voters registration card, a paid New Jersey real estate tax bill with the appropriate name(s), a deed to New Jersey property in the appropriate name(s), utility bills with veteran's name and New Jersey address thereon or other similar documentation.

~ The veteran must be in receipt of a 100% permanent service-connected disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that resulted from wartime service resulting in one of the following seven catastrophic disabilities or a combination of medical symptomatology of one or more of the catastrophic disabilities resulting in a 100 percent rating:

Loss of sight;

Amputation of both hands, both feet or one hand and one foot;

Hemiplegia and permanent paralysis of one leg and one arm or either side of the body;

Paraplegia and permanent paralysis of both legs and lower parts of the body;

Osteochondritis and permanent loss of use of both legs;

Multiple Sclerosis and the loss of use of both feet or both legs;

Quadriplegia

The widow/widower of those veterans who were in receipt of the entitlement prior to their death or would have been entitled to make such application, are also eligible.

Apply - Use New Jersey Catastrophic Entitlement Application. See State VSO for application.

Approvals are retroactive to application date

If an application is approved, the starting date for veteran's approved payment is the date of the application. The widow's/widower's retroactive payment date is the date of the application when the application is filed within one year of the veteran's death.

Appeal - The appeal authority is the Director of the Division of Veterans Programs. Veterans who have been denied the catastrophic entitlement may submit an appeal of the denial to:

State of New Jersey

Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs

PO Box 340

Attention: Director, Division of Veterans Programs

Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

A veteran or the veteran's representative may submit an appeal to a denial regarding eligibility for entitlement within one year of their notification of the decision.

Appeals will be in writing and will contain any new and material evidence for consideration. The Director will respond within 60 days.

Note - An annual re-certification is necessary.

Contact - Division of Veterans Programs at 609-530-6854.

Federal VA Benefits

Disability Compensation

The VA compensation program provides you monthly benefits if you are disabled because of an injury or disease incurred in or aggravated during your military service and for certain conditions which may develop after your release from active duty. Benefits are authorized based upon the severity of your claimed disability(ies). If your service-connected disabilities are evaluated as 30 percent or more, you are entitled to additional allowances for your dependents. Contact State Veterans Service Offices listed in appendix B for more information on federal VA compensation and pensions.

Homeless Veteran Programs



Veterans Haven located in Winslow Township.

New Jersey Benefits Veterans Haven

The Transitional Housing Program for homeless veterans occupies one large building on state property in Winslow Township. The program is divided into three phases: treatment; self-reclamation; and community reintegration. Each phase lasts three to six months and is tailored to individual treatment needs and vocational interests.

Eligibility - Eligible veterans are referred from a VA Medical Center after receiving a medical evaluation. To be admitted into the program, the veteran must agree to a long-term program focusing on psychological, social and vocational rehabilitation. The program is drug and alcohol free, and has a staff comprised of professionals in the fields of mental health, addictions, social work, vocational rehabilitation and nursing.

Contact - For more information on the Transitional Housing Program (Veterans Haven) for homeless veterans call 609-561-0269.

Stand Down Operations

Stand Down helps the New Jersey's homeless veterans "combat" life on the streets by providing a broad range of necessities, including food, clothing, medical, legal and mental health assistance, job counseling, and referrals, but most importantly, companionship and camaraderie.

Membership is open to Veterans and volunteers over the age of 18 who are willing and able to give of their time, efforts and resources in assisting programs for homeless veterans.

Program Goals:

1. Provide immediate short-term relief from the trauma and stress of homelessness and a safe haven for a short period;
2. Bring services and assistance into the field directly to the homeless veteran; provide access to short term services and assistance such as food and clothing;
3. Provide access to longer-term solutions such as VA and social services benefits;
4. To build strong long term interagency and volunteer community working relationships;
5. To raise local and national awareness of the plight of homeless veterans with the hope of increasing community involvement;
6. Start the healing process by returning self-respect to a lost segment of our nation's veteran's population;
7. To encourage replication of the program in other cities across the United States.

Contact - If you are interested in volunteering for Stand Down, call 1-800-624-0508.



Stand Down operation.

Healthcare Entitlements

New Jersey Benefits

Transportation Program

This program assists the veteran in need of transportation. The program originated due to the distance many N.J. veterans had to travel to get to a VA facility for medical care. Free transportation is offered to VA medical centers and clinics, other hospitals, private physicians, VA Regional Office and local Veterans Service Offices in most counties. The State Veterans Service Officer in the county should be contacted to explain the details of the program, level of service in that county, qualifications and requirements, and assist in scheduling the transportation.

Contact - For more information call a Veterans Service Office listed in Appendix B.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Readjustment Counseling

This program addresses the readjustment problems of veterans and offers treatment to combat veterans of all war periods. Treatment extends to family members affected by the veteran's affliction. State Veterans Service Officers assist the veteran with scheduling counseling and the filing of any applicable VA claims. Contracted clinicians, experienced in PTSD counseling, determine the best course of treatment for the veteran and the veteran's family. Assistance is not limited by VA regulations or restrictions.

Contact - For more information call a Veterans Service Officer listed in Appendix B.

Federal VA Benefits

Uniform Benefits Package

Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996 is the legislation that paved the way for the creation of the standard enhanced health benefits plan generally available to all enrolled veterans.

Eligibility Background

In October 1996, Congress passed Public Law 104-262, the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996. This legislation paved the way for the creation of a Uniform Benefits Package - a standard enhanced health benefits plan available to all enrolled veterans. The Law also simplified the process by which veterans can receive services.

Public Law 104-262 was enacted to simplify the rules for providing health care to veterans and to introduce improvements in the quality and timeliness of the care you receive. Like other standard health

care plans, the Uniform Benefits Package emphasizes preventive and primary care, offering a full range of outpatient and inpatient services.

VA has also placed a priority on improved veterans satisfaction. Their goal is to ensure the quality of care and service you receive is consistently excellent, in every location, in every program.

Under the new Uniform Benefits Package, VA offers you, the veteran, a comprehensive health care plan that provides the care you need, when you need it.

Eligibility Details - To be eligible for enrollment for healthcare, you must have:

- ~ Been discharged from active military service under honorable conditions.

- ~ Served a minimum of 2 years if discharged after September 7, 1980 (prior to this date there is no time limit.)

- ~ If a National Guardsman or Reservist, served the entire period for which you were called to active duty other than for training purposes only.

Coast Guard - Individuals who served in the Coast Guard are veterans and are eligible for VA health care benefits in the same manner as any other veteran who served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or Air Force.

Merchant Marine - Certain Merchant Marines who served on U.S. flagged merchant ships between December 7, 1941 and August 5, 1945, may be eligible for enrollment for VA health care benefits. If you served between this period of time you should bring a copy of your DD-214 "Discharge Certificate" to the nearest health care facility and they will review your eligibility with you.

Priority Groups

Once you apply for enrollment, your application eligibility will be verified. Based on your specific eligibility status, you will be assigned a priority group.

There are currently eight priority groups for veterans healthcare. Priority groups are subject to change by VA regulation. All health services may not be available in each area of service.

Help and information on enrollment may be obtained by visiting, calling or writing any VA location of care or any Veterans Service Office. See Appendix B and Appendix E.

New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes



NEW JERSEY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT PARAMUS

201-967-7676, Ext. 294
1 Veterans Drive
PO Box 608
Paramus, NJ 07653-0608

NEW JERSEY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT MENLO PARK

732-452-4272
132 Evergreen Road
PO Box 3013
Edison, NJ 08818-3013

NEW JERSEY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT VINELAND

856-696-6357
524 North West Boulevard
Vineland, NJ 08360-2895

Providing Long Term Care, Respite Care, and
Adult Day Care...

If you're responsible for the long-term care and
well being of a New Jersey veteran, a New Jersey
Veterans Memorial Home may be the right nursing
home choice for your loved one.

If you are interested in applying to one of our
veterans homes, please contact the homes directly.
The telephone numbers are listed above.

Our residents receive compassionate medical
and nursing care 24 hours a day.

Respite care is available for caretakers who need
a rest from the stress of caring for a veteran at home.

Three locations... There are three New Jersey Veter-

ans Memorial Homes, each with a professional staff
that provides residents with a complete range of
caring and comprehensive services. The facilities are
conveniently located in northern, central, and south-
ern New Jersey: Paramus, Menlo Park, and Vineland.

Activity Programs... The special camaraderie among
veterans is recognized and incorporated into the daily
experiences of our residents.

Programs include ceramics, dinner parties, so-
cials, bingo, shopping, movies, and games. Off-site
events include day trips to places such as Atlantic
City, the racetrack, and many sporting events. Other
services provided at each home include barber and
beauty shops, lounges and recreation rooms, outdoor
patios, chapels, snack bars, transportation, and li-
braries.

Volunteers regularly visit residents and assist
with a wide range of programs and activities.

To Ease the Transition... Before a resident is admit-
ted to a veterans home, members of our staff work with
family and loved ones to ease the transition. We strive
to keep the family informed of important aspects of the
residents' nursing home life.

We maintain a special association with the U.S.
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), all veteran's
organizations, and many other civil groups to make
the transition from community living less difficult.

If you are interested in employment at one of the
New Jersey Veterans Memorial Homes as a Regis-
tered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, or Certified
Nurses' Aide, please call (609) 530-6767.

Death, Burial and Related Benefits



The Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Wrightstown.

New Jersey Benefits

Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Free interment and perpetual care, in the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, is available to veteran residents of New Jersey, their spouses and dependant children. The Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery is located at 350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562. 609-758-7250.

Eligibility - Applicant to be interred must be a legal resident of the state of New Jersey at the time of death or have lived at least 50% of his or her life within the state. New Jersey residents who are eligible must be one of the following:

- ~ Service members who died while on active duty.
- ~ Veterans whose last active service ended under other than dishonorable or undesirable conditions.
- ~ Members of any reserve component of the Armed Forces (Army National Guard, Air National Guard or the Reserve Officers Training Corps of the Army, Navy and Air Force) who died under honorable conditions while on active duty for training or performing full-time service.
- ~ Members of a reserve component who has attained 20 years of service creditable for retired pay.
- ~ Certain World War II Merchant Marines and those who have attained veteran status.
- ~ The spouse, widow, or dependent child of any eligible New Jersey veteran. Eligible children must be unmarried and under the age of 21 or be an unmarried adult child who became incapable of self support before reaching the age of 21 because of mental or

physical impairment.

Details - The BG William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, a state- operated cemetery dedicated to veterans, is located on 225 acres in a picturesque setting of partially wooded land in Arnetown, North Hanover Township, Burlington County. The cemetery features a modern, non-denominational chapel/administration building. The cemetery will accommodate 215,000 veterans and eligible family members. Areas are provided for the interment of those cremated and for those veterans whose remains have never been recovered.

Burial entitlements include a plot, grave liner, interment service, use of the chapel, and maintenance in perpetuity, all at no charge to the veteran or veteran's family.

The U.S. bronze grave marker is provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans. The state provides the granite base.

Contact - Requests for burial may be made at the time of death through any funeral director. The family may make requests for interment of cremated remains directly to the cemetery-office.

Veterans are encouraged to pre-register their intent to be interred at the cemetery.

Pre-registration may be done at any state Veterans Service Office listed in Appendix A or at the cemetery itself.

Federal VA Benefits

All federal death-related veterans benefits must be applied for after the death of a veteran. You may not pre-register or file requests in advance.

Eligibility for VA burial, death and related benefits - To confirm your eligibility, call a Veteran's Benefits Counselor at 1-800-827-1000.

~ Members of the Armed Forces of the United States (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard) who died on active duty.

~ Veterans who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Generally, an enlisted person with service beginning after September 7, 1980, and an officer with service after October 16, 1981, must have served for a minimum of 24 months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty. A VA Regional Office will make determination in the case of an undesirable, bad conduct, or other than honorable discharge.

Death, Burial and Related Benefits

~ Any citizen of the United States who served during any war, in which the United States has been engaged, in the armed forces of an ally of the U.S. The last active service must be terminated honorably. The person must have been a U.S. citizen at the time of entry into such service and at the time of death.

~ Reservists and National Guard members with 20 years of qualifying service, who are entitled to retired pay or would be entitled, if at least 60 years of age.

~ Members of reserve components who were disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty during a period of inactive duty training or active duty for training.

~ For members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, commissioned officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, and World War II Merchant Mariners, please call a Veteran's Benefits Counselor at 1-800-827-1000 for details.

~ The spouse or surviving spouse (not remarried) of an eligible person, even if that person is not buried or memorialized in a national cemetery, is eligible for interment in a national cemetery. In addition, the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces of the United States lost or buried at sea or officially determined to be permanently absent in a status of missing or missing in action or whose remains have been donated to science or cremated and the ashes scattered.

~ Eligible children must be unmarried and under the age of 21; unmarried and under 23 years of age and pursuing a course of instruction at an approved educational institution; or be an unmarried adult child who became incapable of self support before reaching the age of 21 because of mental or physical disability.

Persons NOT Eligible for Burial in a VA National Cemetery and other VA death related benefits:

~ Discharge from Draft - A person who was ordered to report to an induction station, but was not actually inducted into military service.

~ Subversive Activities - Any person convicted of subversive activities after September 1, 1959, shall have no right from and after the date of commission of such offense, based on periods of active military service commencing before the date of the commission of such offense.

~ Active or Inactive Duty for Training - A person whose only service is active duty for training or inactive duty

training in the National Guard or Reserve Component, unless the individual meets the eligibility criteria listed above.

~ A person convicted of any Federal Capital crime or any State capital crime involving the death of one or more people is denied burial or memorialization in a national cemetery. (Public Law 105-116, Nov. 1, 1997)

Burial in a VA National Cemetery

Eligibility - Criteria listed above. VA national cemetery directors have the primary responsibility for verifying eligibility for burial in VA national cemeteries.

Details - Gravesites in VA national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance; however, reservations made prior to 1973 will be honored. No special forms are required when requesting burial in a VA national cemetery. The person making burial arrangements should contact the national cemetery in which burial is desired at the time of need. Scheduling can be done seven days a week for interments on Mondays through Fridays.

If possible, the following information concerning the deceased should be provided when the cemetery is first contacted: full name, military rank, branch of service, social security number, service number, VA claim number (if applicable), date and place of birth, date and place of death, date of retirement or last separation from active duty, and a copy of any military separation documents, such as the Department of Defense Form 214 (DD-214). The discharge documents must specify active military duty and show that release from active duty was under other than dishonorable conditions.

The same procedures are followed if the veteran's eligible spouse or dependent predeceases the veteran.

In most cases, one gravesite is provided for the burial of all eligible family members and a single headstone or marker is provided.

When both spouses are veterans, two gravesites and two headstones or markers may be provided if requested.

Viewing facilities are not available and funeral services cannot be held at VA national cemeteries, but a final committal service may be performed. For safety reasons, these committal services are held in committal shelters located away from the gravesite.

Death, Burial and Related Benefits

Burial will take place following the committal service. Floral arrangements may accompany the casket or urn from the committal shelter and will be placed on the grave after burial.

Cemetery personnel will order a headstone or marker upon inscription approval by next of kin. A burial flag will also be provided. Upright headstones are standard in most national cemeteries; however, some have both upright headstones and flat marker sections.

Contact - VA National Cemeteries near New Jersey:

Beverly National Cemetery

R.D. #1, Bridgeboro Road, Beverly, NJ 08010. 609-877-5460.

Finn's Point National Cemetery

RFD #3, Fort Mott Road, Box 542, Salem, NJ 08079. For information contact Beverly National Cemetery 609-877-5460.

Bath National Cemetery

VA Medical Center, Bath, NY 14810.

607-776-5480, Ext. 1293.

Calverton National Cemetery

210 Princeton Boulevard, Calverton, NY 11933-1031. 631-727-5410 or 631-727-5770.

Cypress Hills National Cemetery

625 Jamaica Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11208. For information please contact: Long Island National Cemetery. 516-454-4949.

Long Island National Cemetery

2040 Wellwood Avenue, Farmingdale, NY 11735-1211. 516-454-4949.

Saratoga National Cemetery

200 Duell Road, Schuylerville, NY 12871-1721. 518-581-9128.

Woodlawn National Cemetery

1825 Davis Street, Elmira, NY 14901. For information contact: Bath National Cemetery 607-776-5480, Ext. 1293.

Indiantown Gap National Cemetery

R.R. #2, P.O. Box 484, Annville, PA 17003-9618. 717-865-5254.

Philadelphia National Cemetery

Haines Street and Limekiln Pike, Philadelphia, PA 19138. For information contact Beverly National Cemetery 609-877-5460.

VA Headstone for Burial in a Private Cemetery

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant,

a government headstone or marker to mark the grave of an eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. Flat bronze, granite or marble markers and upright granite and marble headstones are available. The style chosen must be consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial. Niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for interment of cremated remains.

Eligibility - Crite-

ria listed above, see page 47. Headstones and markers are provided for eligible spouses and dependents of veterans only when buried in a national, military post/base, or state veterans cemetery. Spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery are not eligible for a government-provided headstone or marker.

Details - By law, government markers are not provided as foot stones and should not be used to double-mark a veterans' grave. VA frequently calls the cemetery to verify the grave is not, or will not be, marked with a private headstone or marker.

Contact - A funeral director can assist the family, complete VA Form 40-1330, Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker for Installation in a Private or State Veteran's Cemetery. A Veterans Service Officer may also assist, see Appendix A.

Reimbursement of Burial Expenses Service-Connected Death

VA will pay a burial allowance up to \$2,000 if the veteran's death is service-connected. In some in-



Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery is located near Wrightstown.

Death, Burial and Related Benefits

stances, VA also will pay the cost of transporting the remains of a service-disabled veteran to the national cemetery nearest the home of the deceased that has available grave sites. In such cases, the person who bore the veteran's burial expenses may claim reimbursement from the VA.

Death while eligible for pension or compensation - VA will pay a \$300 burial and funeral expense allowance for veterans who, at time of death, were entitled to receive pension or compensation or would have been entitled to compensation except for receiving military retirement pay. Eligibility also may be established when death occurs in a VA facility, a nursing home under VA contract or a state veterans nursing home. Additional costs of transportation of the remains may be paid.

VA will pay a \$300 plot allowance when a veteran is not buried in a cemetery that is under U.S. government jurisdiction under one of the following circumstances:

- ~ the veteran was discharged from active duty because of disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.
- ~ the veteran was in receipt of compensation or pension or would have been except for receiving military retired pay.
- ~ the veteran died in a VA facility.

The \$300 plot allowance may be paid to the state if a veteran is buried without charge for the cost of a plot or interment in a state-owned cemetery reserved solely for veteran burials. Burial expenses paid by the deceased's employer or a state agency will not be reimbursed.

Time Limits - There is no time limit for filing reimbursement claims of service-connected deaths. In other deaths, claims must be filed within two years after permanent burial or cremation.

Contact - For information on monetary benefits, call 1-800-827-1000.

Burial Flag

A United States flag may be issued for burial or memorial purposes in connection with the death of an eligible veteran. Funeral directors will often obtain this flag for the family. This is the same flag that is presented during military funeral honors.

Eligibility - The same veteran eligibility criteria

used for burial in a VA cemetery is used for burial flags. See Appendix A.

Contact - A funeral director can assist the family, complete VA Form 21-2008 in obtaining the flag. A Veterans Service Officer may also assist, see Appendix B.

Department of Defense Benefits Military Funeral Honors

The core elements of the funeral honors ceremony, which will be conducted on request, include a minimum two-person detail, flag folding, flag presentation and playing of taps, which may be from a recording. The veteran's parent service representative will present the flag. Military Funeral Honors are provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to the family.

The military service request at least 48 hours advance notice in order to organize the funeral honors detail.

Eligibility

- ~ Military members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve.
- ~ Former military members who served on active duty and departed under condition other than dishonorable.
- ~ Former military members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- ~ Former military members discharged from the Selected Reserve due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

Points of Contact for Military Funeral Honors in New Jersey

Funeral Directors - Department of Defense tollfree hotline is only for funeral directors. 1-877-MIL-HONR (1-877-645-4667.)

Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard - Ft. Dix office covers entire state. 609-562-4453 or 562-3147.

Headquarters Marine Corps, 866-826-3628

Marine Corps including Reserves - USMC reserve units divide the state by counties.

Dover (Picatinny Arsenal) 973-724-4700/4701 covers Sussex, Passaic, Bergen, Warren, Morris, Essex, Hudson, and Union Counties.

Red Bank 732-530-4500 Ext. 548 or after hours

Death, Burial and Related Benefits

732-239-7526 cell phone, covers Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

Trenton 609-882-5133 Ext. 1 or after-hours 609-743-2506 covers Hunterdon, Mercer, Burlington, and Atlantic Counties.

Wilmington, DE 302-998-6695 covers Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties.

Willowgrove, PA 215-443-6740 24-hour duty covers Camden and Gloucester Counties.

Navy including Reserves - All funeral honor requests must be through Groton, Connecticut. The phone number there is 860-694-3475. They will in turn contact either Naval Weapons Station Earle, or Lakehurst Naval Engineering Station, depending on geographic location of interment site (North or South of Interstate 195.)

Air Force, Air Force Reserves, and Air National Guard - McGuire office covers the entire state. 609-754-4117.

Comments or concerns may be directed to Military Funeral Honors, 9504 IH-35 North, Suite 320, San Antonio, TX 78233-6635, or go online to: **WWW.MILITARYFUNERALHONORS.OSD.MIL**

Burial at Sea

Burials at sea services are performed on naval vessels while deployed on official maneuvers. Due to operational commitments, allow a minimum of eight weeks for committal to take place. The commanding officer of the vessel will notify the family of the date, time, longitude and latitude of the committal.

Eligibility -

~ Members and retirees of the United States



Remembering and honoring those who fell in defense of the United States.

uniformed services.

~ Veterans discharged honorably or under honorable conditions.

~ United States civilian marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command.

~ Dependents of members, retirees and honorable discharged veterans of the United States uniformed services.

Presidential Benefits Presidential Memorial Certificate

This is a parchment certificate with a calligraphic inscription expressing the nation's grateful recognition of service in the Armed Forces. The veteran's name is inscribed and the certificate bears the signature of the President.

Eligibility - Honorably discharged, deceased veteran. There is no time limit to apply for

the certificate.

Apply - The family may request a Presidential Memorial Certificate either in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail. Requests cannot be sent via e-mail. There is no form to fill out when requesting the certificate.

When requesting by mail, a return address and a copy of the veteran's discharge documents must be enclosed.

Send requests to: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration (403A), 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420.

Contact - More information is available at: **WWW.CEM.VA.GOV/PMC.HTM**

New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and Vietnam Era Educational Center



The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at Holmdel.

The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, located in Holmdel, New Jersey, allows us to remember and honor 1,557 New Jersey men and one woman who lost their lives or remain missing in action in Southeast Asia. It also publicly recognizes more than 80,000 New Jerseyans whose heroism and courage was unjustly ignored when they returned home.

Dedicated in May 1995, the Memorial is a circular, open-air structure containing 366 polished black granite panels - one for each day of the year. Engraved on those panels are the names of each of the 1,557 New Jersey soldiers, marines, sailors, or airmen killed or reported missing in action on that date. At the center of the Memorial stands a red oak, New Jersey's official state tree. It shades a grouping of three bronze statues representing those who died in Southeast Asia, those who came home, and the women who served.

The Vietnam Era Educational Center is the first educational center and museum of its kind in the United States or the world. Dedicated in September 1998, the center is devoted solely to gaining an understanding of the violent conflict in Southeast Asia and the surrounding political strife in America.

The Center enables visitors to attain a greater understanding of the myriad of forces that produced the conflict abroad and the dissension at home. It provides an atmosphere where appropriate materials and exhibits help visitors understand the significance of the Memorial, the reality of the conflict, and the social, political and cultural complexities of the war years. It complements the solemnity of the Memorial with a dynamic and lively learning environment.

The 10,000 square-foot facility includes an exhibition area with historic timeline, a circle of personal correspondence, flip books of personal photographs, touch-screen computers, and a testimony theater. The resource room contains hundreds of books, videos, and CD-ROMS. The multipurpose room serves as both a classroom and meeting room for various functions. There is also a gift shop with Memorial merchandise and items relating to the Vietnam Era.

There are also special, temporary exhibits, a film and lecture series, issue-related forums, ceremonies and other

special events held at the Memorial and Educational Center throughout the year. Guided tours and facilities rental are available.

The NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Vietnam Era Educational Center is open to the public Tuesday - Saturday, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for senior citizens and students, children 10 and under are free. Veterans of military service and active military personnel are admitted free of charge.

For more information, call 1-800-648-VETS (8387) or 732-335-0033.



The Memorial and Education Center is located on the grounds of the PNC Bank Arts Center, Garden State Parkway, Exit 116, Holmdel

New Jersey Korean War Memorial



New Jersey Korean War Memorial located at Brighton Park, Atlantic City where Park Place meets the Boardwalk.

The Korean Conflict, 1950-1953, the nation's only undeclared war, claimed more than 540,900 lives - this number includes 837 veterans from New Jersey.

Dedicated on 13 November 2000, The New Jersey Korean War Memorial stands on land donated by Atlantic City, in Brighton Park, where Park Place meets the Boardwalk.

Sculptors J. Tom Carrillo and Thomas Jay Warren designed the memorial featuring bronze figures of heroic proportions, representing the servicemen and women who fought in Korea, which include the "Mourning Soldier" clutching dog tags and remembering his lost comrades, a soldier and nurse helping a wounded soldier, and two battlefield reliefs behind sheets of water cascading into reflecting pools. It also includes a wall bearing the names of all the service members killed or missing in action, as well as a wall honoring the four New Jersey servicemen who were awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in Korea.

For more information, call the Division of Veterans Services at 609-530-7049 or visit the New Jersey Korean War Memorial website at www.state.nj.us/military/korea



Mourning Soldier (right) and Combat Squad.

USS New Jersey

The Navy announced July 21, 2000, that Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig signed the donation contract officially transferring the historic battleship New Jersey (BB 62) to the Home Port Alliance for USS NEW JERSEY Inc. in Camden.

Built at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, the New Jersey was commissioned on May 23, 1943, and saw active service from 1944-1948, 1950-1957, and 1968-1969. After undergoing modernization, she was recommissioned in 1982, serving almost nine more years and demonstrating global U.S. naval presence as part of the Multinational Peacekeeping Force in Beirut, Lebanon, and in developments to the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Pacific.

Beyond her imposing size, the "Big J" has an impressive record of service to her country, winning many awards for the noteworthy actions of her crew, including sixteen battle stars - nine in World War II, four during the Korean War, and three during the Vietnam War - as well as two Navy Unit Commendations, eight service medals and eight service ribbons.

The Navy donates ships as a way of preserving naval history and tradition, educating the public, and commemorating the men and women who built and sailed the vessels.

The USS New Jersey completed her final voyage home from Bremerton, Washington to the former Philadelphia Naval Ship Yard, arriving there appropriately enough, on Veterans' Day 1999. The Navy's decision to berth the Battleship permanently in Camden was announced on June 20, 2000.

The Battleship New Jersey, our Nation's most decorated battleship, is now a floating museum on the



Contemporary photo of the BB-62, The USS New Jersey. Courtesy United States Navy.

Delaware River, along the Camden Waterfront across from Center City, Philadelphia.

History comes to life as visitors experience a two-hour guided tour through the Iowa - class ship, one of the largest battleships ever built.

The tour takes visitors around the upper and lower sections of the Battleship complete with a multimedia room for disabled visitors.

Guided Tours are as follows:

9 AM - 3 PM October - March

9 AM - 5 PM April - September

For general information and directions call The Home Port Alliance Group, 2500 Broadway, Drawer 18, Camden, NJ 08104; 856-966-1652, Fax 856-966-1883; web site: **WWW.USSNJ.ORG**; or museum curator at 856-966-1561.

Appendix A - New Jersey State Veteran Facilities



VETERANS HAVEN 609-561-0269, 202 Spring Garden Road, Windslow, NJ 08095



BG WILLIAM C. DOYLE VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY 609-758-7250
350 Provinceline Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562



NEW JERSEY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT MENLO PARK 732-452-4102, 132 Evergreen Road, PO Box 3013, Edison, NJ 08818-3013



NEW JERSEY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT PARAMUS 201-967-7676, Extension 294, 1 Veterans Drive, PO Box 608, Paramus, NJ 07653-0608



NEW JERSEY VETERANS MEMORIAL HOME AT VINELAND 856-696-6357, 524 North West Boulevard, Vineland, NJ 08360-2895

Appendix B - NJDMAVA State Veterans Service Offices

ASBURY PARK 07712-6904

630 Bangs Avenue, Suite 320
732-775-7009 or -7005

ATLANTIC CITY 08401-6901

1601 Atlantic Avenue
7th Floor
609-441-3060 or -3061

BRICK 08724-3550

970 Route 70
(in the James J. Howard VA Clinic)
732-840-3033 or -3034

ELIZABETH 07201-1053

1196 Chestnut Street
908-820-3133 or -3134

HACKENSACK 07601-5427

60 State Street, Center City Plaza
201-996-8050 or -8051

JERSEY CITY 07306-3158

438 Summit Avenue
3rd Floor, Room 302
201-798-7040 or -7051 or -7026

MT. LAUREL 08054

1000 Howard Blvd., Suite 301
856-787-3820 or -3821

NEWARK 07102-3174

20 Washington Place
973-297-3230

NEW BRUNSWICK 08901-2102

711 Jersey Avenue
732-937-6347 or -6348 or -6349

NEWTON 07860-5000

Armory, 5 South Park Dr.
(off U.S. Highway 206)
973-383-4949 or -1363
Dover (Wednesday)
973-366-8347

PATERSON 07505-2101

100 Hamilton Plaza, 6th Fl
973-977-4050 or -4051 or -4556

PORT MURRAY 07865-9482

Armory, 550 Route 57
908-689-5840 or -5845

THOROFARE 08086

215 Crown Point Road, Suite 300
856-853-4184 or -4185 or -4186

TRENTON 08625-0671

28 W. State Street, 3rd Fl, Room 314
609-292-5880 or -5881

VINELAND 08360-2895

524 Northwest Boulevard
NJ Veterans Memorial Home
856-696-6452 or -6445 or -6451

VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS SERVICE OFFICES

All offices are Located at 20 Washington
Place, Newark, NJ 07102

AMERICAN LEGION

973-297-3377

AMVETS

973-297-3376

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

973-297-3378

EASTERN PARALYZED VETERANS

973-297-3387

JEWISH WAR VETERANS

973-297-3388

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

973-297-3389

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

973-297-3226

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

973-297-3227

Appendix C - NJ County Veterans Service Offices

ATLANTIC

Atlantic County office of Veterans Affairs
6601 Ventnor Avenue, Suite 303
Ventnor NJ 08406
609-487-6932

BERGEN

Division of Veterans Services
One Bergen County Plaza
Hackensack NJ 07601
201-336-6325, 6328, 6329, 6326, 7406

BURLINGTON

Dept. of Veterans Affairs
795 Woodlane Road
Human Services Building
Westhampton NJ 08046
609-265-5008, 5154

CAMDEN

Department of Veterans Affairs
315 South White Horse Pike
Magnolia NJ 08049
856-566-7297, 856-566-7295 Fax

CAPE MAY

Veterans Bureau
4005 Rte 9
S. Social Service Bldg.
Rio Grande NJ 08242
609-886-2762

CUMBERLAND

Veterans Affairs Office
25 Laurel Road
Millville NJ 08332
856-575-0269

ESSEX (Mon. & Tues.)

Veterans Bureau
15 South Munn Avenue, 2nd Floor
East Orange NJ 07018
973-673-5910, 973-674-1209

GLOUCESTER

Office of Veterans Affairs
211 County House Rd.
Washington Twp
Sewell NJ 08080
856-307-4820- Receptionist
856-307-4825- Clinic Receptionist

HUDSON

Veterans Services
County of Hudson
Dept. of Health & Human Svcs.

595 County Road
Secaucus NJ 07094
201-795-5610

HUNTERDON

Interment Officer
39 Jefferson Street
Lambertville NJ 08530
609-397-1731

MERCER

Department of Veterans Affairs
640 So. Broad Street, Room 430
Trenton NJ 08650
609-989-6120

MIDDLESEX

Dept. of Human Services
Middlesex County Admin. Bldg.
John F. Kennedy Square, 5th Floor
New Brunswick NJ 08901
732-745-4086

MONMOUTH

Interment Office
PO Box 3000, Kozloski Road
Freehold NJ 07728
732-308-2988, 732-431-7412 Fax

MORRIS

County Dept. of Human Services
Veterans Services
30 Schuyler Place
Morristown NJ 07960
973-285-6868 or 800-564-4656

OCEAN

Veterans Service Bureau
1027 Hooper Avenue, Building 2
PO Box 2191
Toms River NJ 08754-2191
732-929-2096

PASSAIC

Veterans Service Office
Administration Building
317 Pennsylvania Avenue
Paterson NJ 07505
973-881-4173, 973-925-8063 Fax

SALEM

Veterans Service Office
94 Market Street
Salem NJ 08079
856-935-7510 Ext 8603

SOMERSET

Appendix C - NJ County Veterans Service Offices

Department of Veterans Services
92 E. Main Street
Somerville NJ 08876
908-704-6329

SUSSEX

Interment Officer
11 Walton Place
Stanhope NJ 07874
973-691-1262

UNION

Office of Veterans Affairs
Union Count Administration Building
3rd Floor
Elizabeth NJ 07207
908-659-7407 or 866-640-7115
908-558-2566 Fax

WARREN

Interment Officer
8 Hughes Lane
Belvidere NJ 07823
908-475-2413
Assistant Supervisor
8 Hemlock Lane
Belvidere NJ 07823
908-475-5098

Appendix D - Workforce New Jersey Veterans Employment Offices

Atlantic City

1433 Bacharach Blvd. 08401
609-441-3294

Bloomfield

57 Park St. (2nd floor) 07003
973-680-5550

Bridgeton

40 E. Broad St., Suite 102 08302
856-453-3900

Burlington

220 W. Broad St. 08016
609-386-0224

Camden

517 Federal St. 08103
856-757-2601

Cherry Hill

1873 Rt 70, Suite 304 08003
856-751-8550

Dover

107 Bassett Highway 07801
973-361-9050

East Orange

186 S. Clinton St. 07018
973-266-1990

Elizabeth

208 Commerce Pl. 07201
908-820-3200

Englewood

40 Bennett Rd. 07631
201-568-9840

Flemington

71 Main St. 08822
908-782-3292

Fort Dix

Delaware Ave., Bldg. 5418 3rd
Floor 08640
609-723-5494

Freehold

3680 Rt 9 South 07728
732-780-3272

Hackensack

60 State St. 07601
201-996-8950

Hammonton

44 N. Whitehorse Pike, Suite A ,
08037
856-561-8800

Jersey City 438 Summit Ave.

07306

201-795-8800

Millville

1527 N. High St., Store 2B 08332
856-825-8003

Morristown

30 Schuyler Pl. 07960
973-631-6321

Neptune

60 Taylor Ave. 07755
732-775-1566

Newark

1004 Broad St. 07102
973-648-3599

New Brunswick

506 Jersey Ave. 08901
732-937-6200

Newton

Rt 206 N., Sussex County Mall
07860
973-383-2775

Passaic

14-16 Howe Ave. 07055
973-916-2643

Paterson

370 Broadway (2nd Fl) 07501
973-977-4350

Perth Amboy

339 Maple St. (2nd Fl) 08861
732-293-5016

Phillipsburg

75 S. Main St. 08865
908-859-0400

Plainfield

525 Madison Ave. 07060
908-412-7980

Salem

174 E. Broadway 08079
856-935-7007

Somerville

75 Veterans Memorial Dr. East
Suite 102 08876 908-704-3001

Thorofare

215 Crown Point Road 08086
856-384-3700

Toms River 1027 Hooper Ave.,
Bldg. 6, 2nd Fl. 08753
732-286-5616

Trenton

26 Yard Ave. (Rm 209) 08609
609-292-0620

Vineland

415 Landis Ave. (1st Fl.) 0836
856-696-6600

Wildwood

3810 New Jersey Ave. 08260
609-729-0997

Appendix E - US Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities

REGIONAL OFFICE

NEWARK 07102
20 Washington Place
1-800-827-1000

PHILADELPHIA 19101

Ro and Ins. Center
PO Box 8079
5000 Wissahickon Ave.
Insurance 1-800-827-1000
Information 1-800-669-8477

MEDICAL CENTERS VANJ HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

EAST ORANGE CAMPUS 07018-1095 385 Tremont Ave. and South Center St.
973-676-1000 or 1-800-646-VAMC

LYONS CAMPUS 07939

151 Knollcroft Rd.
908-647-0180 or 908-580-3757
Billing: 1-800-382-4156

PHILADELPHIA 19104

University and Woodland Aves.
215-823-5800

WILMINGTON, DE 19805

1601 Kirkwood Highway
302-994-2511

OUTPATIENT CLINICS

BRICK (James J. Howard) 08724

970 Route 70
732-206-8900

CAPE MAY 08204

1 Monroe Ave.
609-898-8700

ELIZABETH 07201

654 East Jersey St., 2nd Floor
908-994-0120

FORT DIX 08640

Bldg. 5437, 8th and Alabama
609-562-2999

FORT MONMOUTH 07703

Patterson Army Health Clinic
Bldg. 1075, Stephenson Ave.
732-532-4500

HACKENSACK 07601

385 Prospect Ave.
201-487-1390

JERSEY CITY 07302

115 Christopher Columbus Dr.
201-435-3055

MORRIS PLAINS 07950

540 West Hanover Ave.
973-539-9794

NEW BRUNSWICK 08901

317 George St.
732-729-0646

NEWARK 07102

20 Washington Place, 3rd Floor
973-645-1441

TRENTON 08611-2425

171 Jersey St., Bldg. 36
609-989-2355

VENTNOR CITY 08406

Ventnor Professional Campus
6601 Ventnor Ave., Suite 303
609-823-3122

VINELAND 08360-2895

The Cottage
520 Northwest Blvd.
856-692-2881

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP 08080

211 County House Rd.
856-307-4825

ALLENTOWN, PA 18103

2937 Hamilton Blvd.
610-776-4304

Appendix E - US Department of Veterans Affairs Facilities

VET CENTERS

JERSEY CITY 07302

115 Christopher Columbus Dr.
Suite 200
973-645-2038

NEWARK 07102

45 Academy St.
Suite 303
973-645-5954

PHILADELPHIA 19107

801 Arch St.
Suite 102
215-627-0238

PHILADELPHIA 19120

101 East Olney Ave.
Box C-7
215-924-4670

TRENTON 08611-2425

171 Jersey St.
Bldg. 36
609-989-2260

VENTNOR CITY 08406

Ventnor Professional Campus
6601 Ventnor Ave.
Suite 105
609-487-8387

FEDERAL CEMETERIES

BEVERLY 08010

R.D. #1 Bridgeboro Road.
609-877-5460

SALEM 08079

Finns Point R.F.D. #3
Fort Mott Rd.
Box 542
609-877-5460

Appendix F - NJ Veterans Service Agencies

VETERANS ASSISTANCE OFFICES AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Veterans and eligible dependents may seek assistance with educational entitlements at veterans assistance offices located on the campus of most private and public colleges throughout the state. These offices are certified by the State Approving Agency, Division of Veterans Services, and will assist in processing the paperwork required to receive educational entitlements. Personnel are employees of each institution.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE OFFICES AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

Following honorable separation or discharge from the service, veterans are encouraged to bring their discharge papers to the clerk or registrar of deeds of their county of residence who will record the document without cost to the veteran. If the original is ever lost by the veteran, the clerk will provide a certified copy for a nominal fee.

Every county is required to hire a Supervisor of Veterans Interment to assist families of deceased veterans with information and arrangements concerning burial entitlements and services.

Some counties have gone one step further and have established a veterans affairs office which provides veterans with information on services and entitlements or can refer them to the proper agency equipped to handle the specific problem or question.

County-operated veterans service offices are listed in Appendix C.

AGENT ORANGE COMMISSION

The Agent Orange Commission conducts outreach programs to inform veterans of Agent Orange issues. For more information call toll-free 1-800-624-0508.

The Congressional toll-free number is: 1-800-361-5222.

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE AND MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The seven member committee works to identify the needs and concerns of the veterans of N.J., explores various avenues of addressing those needs and concerns, and reviews and recommends legislation affecting veterans and their dependents to other

Appendix F - NJ Veterans Service Agencies

assembly committees and the General Assembly. For Legislative information call 1-800-792-8630 or 609-292-4840.

SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The six member committee reviews and recommends legislation affecting veterans and their dependents to other committees and the Senate. For Legislative information call 1-800-792-8630 or 609-292-4840.

VETERANS SERVICES COUNCIL

The Veterans Services Council was established by the legislature in 1948. It is composed of nine veterans, all of whom are appointed by the governor and serve four-year terms. Its principal responsibility is the formulation of policies and recommendations, which are subject to the approval of the Adjutant General, to improve the availability and coordination of services offered to veterans and their dependents. To achieve this goal, the council continually assesses and identifies the needs of the veterans of NJ; informs the public and legislative bodies of those needs; assists in the development of and recommends public policy to meet those needs; and monitors those agencies which provide services to veterans to ensure that public policy is being implemented effectively.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Coordinates numerous programs aimed at educating the public about legislative activity. For copies of bills, resolutions, legislative calendars or other publications, call the Legislative Information and Bill Room at 1-800-792-8630 or 609-292-4840. Information is also available online at: **WWW.NJLEG.STATE.NJ.US**

VETERANS FACILITIES ADVISORY COUNCILS

Under general policies established by The Adjutant General, the four Veterans Facilities Advisory Councils recommend standards and procedures for application and determination of eligibility for admission to state veterans facilities and recommend standards for quality care. The council also recommends standards and procedures for determination and pay-

ment of amounts which members may be required to contribute toward the cost of care and treatment in accordance with their financial ability. There is a council for each veterans memorial home and the cemetery.

BLUE STAR MEMORIAL HIGHWAY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Originated as a joint project of the Garden Club of N.J. and the Highway Dept. in 1944, as a way to provide a living memorial to veterans. The original project established a five-mile planting of flowering dogwood trees in a landscaped area along US Route 29 (now Route 22) between Mountainside and North Plainfield. The project was named Blue Star Drive, for the blue star in the service flag that families would hang in their windows for each family member on active duty. In 1945, it became a national project. In 1948, the N.J. Blue Star Advisory Council was established.

New Jersey Interstates 78, 80, 287 and 295 have been dedicated as memorial highways; the entire length of Route 22 has been designated as the state's link in the national chain.

For more information on designated highways, by-ways and cemeteries contact the local Garden Club.

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

For information on the state memorial and educational center located at Exit 116 on the Garden State Parkway, Holmdel.

For more information call 1-800-648-VETS(8387).

WOMEN VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The committee serves as a forum for addressing the needs and concerns of women veterans, works to support equality of services and stresses the availability of entitlements to women.

For more information call 609-530-6766.

New Jersey Forms

The following forms have been included for your convenience. The forms may be removed from the book or copied. If you copy the form, remember to copy the reverse side. New Jersey Forms pages are not numbered.

The forms are included in the following order:

<i>Appendix/Page</i>	<i>Form/Title</i>	<i>Number of pages in form</i>
Appendix G/42	NJ Veterans Profile	1
Appendix H/44	NJDMAVA Form 05A-1NJ Civil Service Veterans Preference Claim Form	2
Appendix I/46	NJ Application for Award Program	2
Appendix J/48	NJ Operation Recognition Program	2
Appendix K/50	NJDMAVA Form 05A-2 NJ Application for Veterans Designation for Pension	1

VETERANS PROFILE

Please do NOT mail duplicate forms.

Over the years, the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs has developed a database of veterans who reside in the state. This list has been extremely useful in providing New Jersey veterans with information regarding their entitlements, special meetings and other events. The information you provide will help us in knowing our state's veteran population a little more and may prove valuable when assessing needs and deciding future goals and initiatives. Please complete and return to:

NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Attn: DCVA-FO Database Info
PO Box 340, Eggert Crossing Road
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

First Name _____	Middle _____
Last Name _____	Spouse's first name _____
Street address _____	Male Veteran _____ Female Veteran _____ Widow _____
City _____	Veteran Organization membership(s) _____
State _____ Zip _____	_____
County _____	_____
Branch of Service _____	_____
Additional branches (if any) _____	_____

Military Service please circle all that applies:

World War I: Apr. 6, 1917 – Nov. 11, 1918
Between World War I and World War II
World War II: Sep. 16, 1940 – Dec. 31, 1946
Between World War II and Korea
Korea: June 23, 1950 – Jan. 31, 1955
Between Korea and Vietnam
Vietnam: Dec. 31, 1960 – May 7, 1975
Between Vietnam and Lebanon
Lebanon Crisis Jul. 1, 1958 - Nov. 1, 1958
Lebanon: Sep. 26, 1982 – Dec. 1, 1987
Between Lebanon and Grenada

Grenada: Oct. 23, 1983 – Nov. 21, 1983
Between Grenada and Panama
Panama: Dec. 20, 1989 – Jan. 31, 1990
Between Panama and Persian Gulf
Persian Gulf: Aug. 2, 1990 - Feb. 28, 1991
Somalia: Dec. 5, 1992 – Mar. 31, 1994
Bosnia: Nov. 20, 1995 - June 20, 1998
Haiti: Sep. 19, 1994 - Mar. 31, 1995
Operation Enduring Freedom on or after
Sep. 11, 2001
Operation Iraqi Freedom on or after
Mar. 19, 2003 - Present

In order to protect your privacy, please answer the following three questions.

I wish to receive the NJ Veterans Journal. YES NO

I wish to receive other veteran-related information from the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. My name may be added to the DMAVA mailing list. YES NO

I wish to receive any veteran-related information. My name and address may be used to send me any veteran-related information, such as from the VA. YES NO

In determining the goals of our department, input from veterans groups and individuals is vital. What concerns you regarding veterans entitlements, programs and services? Please use the reverse side for answers.

Comments and answers:

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CIVIL SERVICE VETERAN'S PREFERENCE CLAIM FORM
INSTRUCTIONS

- Please print or type all answers • Complete the first section and any other section(s) that apply to you
- Sign your name at the bottom • Please mail this form and a copy of your Veteran's Separation Papers (Form DD214) to NJ Dept of Military & Veterans' Affairs, ATTN: DVP-VBB, P.O. Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340 • If you do not have Form DD 214, a copy can be obtained from the National Personnel Records Center. If your records have been destroyed, a letter from the National Personnel Records Center attesting to the destruction of your records and a notarized statement indicating the dates of active service, branch, rank, and type of discharge must be submitted.

1. Your Name (Last, first, middle initial - Please Print)	2. Your Social Security Number	4. Veteran's Name (If you are not the veteran)
3. Your address Street		5. Veteran's Social Security Number (If you are not the veteran)
City State Zip Code		6. Date Starting Active Duty
8. Has veteran received a dishonorable discharge? YES NO		7. Date Ending Active Duty
9. Branch of Service		10. Rank at Discharge

DISABLED VETERAN CLAIMANTS - If the veteran is eligible for or receiving 10% or more disability compensation or pension for a service connected disability incurred during one of the covered periods of service. **CURRENT PROOF OF DISABILITY IS REQUIRED.**

11. Give percent disability receiving Or entitled to receive %	12. Present location veteran's disability records (V.A. Office)
13. Nature of Disability	14. Claim Number

SPOUSE OF A DISABLED VETERAN - The spouse of veteran who is eligible for or receiving 10% or more disability compensation or pension for a service connected disability incurred during one of the covered periods is entitled to the same preference as the veteran provided the veteran is not in the employment of the State, or of any County, Municipality, or School District covered by the Department of Personnel and further provided that the veteran waives all preference as long as the spouse is employed by any of the aforementioned jurisdictions.

15. Are you presently married to the Veteran named in Item 4 above? YES NO	16. Will the veteran waive the right to use of the D.V. Status in your favor? YES NO (If Yes, veteran must sign here)
17. Is the veteran now employed by the State or any other Jurisdiction covered by the Department of Personnel? YES NO	⇒ Veteran's Signature

SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A DISABLED VETERAN (OR) SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A VETERAN WHO DIED IN SERVICE - Until s/he remarries is entitled to the same preference as a disabled veteran. **Copy of Death Certificate or Report of Casualty required.**

18. Date of Death	19. Has a parent of the veteran named in Item 4 above used the parent's preference with the New Jersey Department of Personnel?	YES NO
20. Were you married to the veteran named in Item 4 above at the time of the veteran's death?	21. Have you remarried since the death of this veteran?	YES NO

SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A VETERAN WHO DID NOT DIE IN THE SERVICE - is entitled, until the surviving remarries, to the same preference to which the veteran, if living, would be entitled. **Copy of Death Certificate required.**

22. Were you married to the veteran named in Item 4 above at the time of the veteran's death?	23. Date of Death
24. Have you remarried since the death of this veteran?	YES NO

GOLD STAR PARENT - The parent of a veteran who died while in service is entitled to Disabled Veteran's Preference. If both a parent and spouse survive, the use of such preference by either shall suspend the right of the other. **Report of Casualty required.**

24. Date of Death	27. Name and Address of surviving spouse	28. Has surviving spouse ever used the spouse's Veterans Preference in securing public Employment in New Jersey?
25. Was deceased veteran married? YES NO (If Yes, complete items 27 and 28)		YES NO

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the statements made by me to the foregoing questions are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. If any of the statements in this application are false, I am aware that I am subject to criminal proceedings.

YOUR SIGNATURE DATE

CIVIL SERVICE VETERAN'S PREFERENCE CLAIM FORM

To be eligible for veteran's preference/status under New Jersey Law, one must have served on active duty during one of the following periods or incurred a service-connected injury irrespective of length of service:

1. **World War II:** 90 days active duty on or after September 16, 1940, and must have begun on or before December 31, 1946.
2. **Korean Conflict:** 90 days active duty on or after June 23, 1950, and must have begun on or before January 31, 1955.
- *3. **Lebanon Crisis:** 14 days on or after July 1, 1958, commencing on or before November 1, 1958.
4. **Vietnam Conflict:** 90 days active duty on or after December 31, 1960, and must have begun on or before May 7, 1975.
- *5. **Lebanon:** 14 days on or after September 26, 1982 and must have begun on or before December 1, 1987.
- *6. **Grenada:** 14 days on or after October 23, 1983 and must have begun on or before November 21, 1983.
- *7. **Panama:** 14 days on or after December 20, 1989 and must have begun on or before January 31, 1990.
- *8. **Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm:** 14 days on or after August 2, 1990 to February 28, 1991.
- *9. **Somalia:** 14 days on or after December 5, 1992 and must have begun on or before March 31, 1994.
- *10. **Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation Joint Endeavor/Operation Joint Guard):** 14 days on or after November 20, 1995 and on or before June 20, 1998.
- *11. **Haiti (Operation Uphold Democracy):** 14 days on or after September 19, 1994 and on or before March 31, 1995.
- *12. **Operation Enduring Freedom:** 14 days on or after September 11, 2001
- *13. **Operation Iraqi Freedom:** 14 days on or after March 19, 2003

***NOTE:** To be eligible for preference for the above peacekeeping missions, one must have served in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Haiti, Operation Enduring Freedom, or Operation Iraqi Freedom, or on board any ship actively engaged in patrolling the territorial waters of that nation for a period of at least 14 days beginning on or before the date of termination of that mission or operation.

To be eligible for disabled veteran's preference, one must be a "veteran" as described above (except that such person receiving an actual service-incurred disability need not fulfill the 90/14 day requirement) and must have incurred a disability for which the veteran is eligible for or receiving ten percent or greater disability compensation. Spouses of disabled veterans, surviving spouses of disabled veterans or veterans and parents of veterans who died in service are eligible for preference, if the veteran would have been eligible for veteran's preference.

NOTE: Individuals whose only active service was for training in connection with a Reserve or National Guard obligation are not eligible for Veteran's Preference.

NOTE: Merchant Marine Personnel who served in World War II, and who present a DD-214 which establishes 90 days of active service during the period noted above, are entitled to Veteran's Preference.

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS
APPLICATION FOR AWARD / PROGRAM**

INSTRUCTIONS

- Print or type information. • Attach a copy of DD Form 214 or WD Form 53 • Attach a copy of death certificate (if applicable)
- Mail to: NJ Dept of Military & Veterans Affairs, ATTN: DVP-VBB, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340
- For further information - Phone: 609-530-7035

Program or Award Requested: (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NJ Distinguished Service Medal | <input type="checkbox"/> NJ Vietnam Service Medal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NJ Meritorious Service Medal | <input type="checkbox"/> NJ Korean Service Medal |

VETERAN'S INFORMATION

1. Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)	2. Service Number / SSN	3. Rank/Grade Held Upon Honorable Discharge
4. Address: Street: City: State: Zip Code: County: Phone (.....) :		5. Residency Upon Entry on Active Duty: City: State:

MILITARY SERVICE INFORMATION

6. Branch of Service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard)	
7. War Time Service (Check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> World War I <input type="checkbox"/> World War II <input type="checkbox"/> Korean War <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam War <input type="checkbox"/> Desert Shield/Storm	
8. Type of Combat <input type="checkbox"/> Ground <input type="checkbox"/> Air <input type="checkbox"/> Sea	9. What Veterans's Organizations do you belong to? (If any)
8a. Theater of Operations: (Check all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> European-African-Middle Eastern <input type="checkbox"/> Asiatic Pacific <input type="checkbox"/> North Atlantic <input type="checkbox"/> American <input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Asiatic <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Asiatic	

POSTHUMOUS AWARD ☐ YES ☐ NO (If YES - Complete the following) (Attach copy of Death Certificate)

10. Name of Person to Receive Award (Last, First, Middle Initial)	Relationship to Deceased Veteran
11. Address Street: City: State: Zip Code: Daytime Phone:	

12. Presentation Ceremony Requested <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	SIGNATURE:	Date:
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For Use by Approving Authority: NJ Dept of Military & Veterans Affairs:

Remarks:

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

NJ Distinguished Service Medal	<p>Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in time of war or national emergency. Current resident of NJ Resident of NJ upon entry on Active Duty. Served in a combat theater or was officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by US Dept of Defense. Posthumous award authorized.</p>
NJ Vietnam Service Medal	<p>Current Resident of NJ. Served on Active Duty on or after Dec. 31, 1960 and on or before May 7, 1975 in Vietnam; Thailand, Laos, Cambodia (or contiguous waters or airspace). Attached to or served one or more days w/organization participating in or directly supporting military operations. Attached to or served for one or more days aboard a United States Naval vessel directly supporting military operations. Participated as a crew member in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Vietnam and contiguous waters directly supporting military operations. Served on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in Vietnam or contiguous areas, except that this time may be waived for persons participating in actual combat operations. Must have received an Honorable Discharge (General Discharge [Under Honorable Conditions] or a Discharge Under Other Than Honorable Conditions shall not be considered valid for this award). Posthumous award authorized.</p>
NJ Meritorious Service Medal (Only for those not eligible for DSM)	<p>Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in time of war or national emergency. Current Resident of NJ, having resided in NJ for at least the past 5 years. Served in a combat theater or was officially listed as a prisoner of war or missing in action by US Dept of Defense. Posthumous award authorized.</p>
NJ Korean Service Medal	<p>Current resident of NJ Served on active duty on or after June 23, 1950 and on or before January 31, 1955 in Korea, Japan or the contiguous waters or airspace thereof, and Attached to or served for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations, or Attached to or served for one or more aerial flights into airspace over Korea or contiguous waters directly supporting military operations, or Served on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in Korea or contiguous areas, except that this time limit may be waived for persons Participating in actual combat operations. Posthumous award authorized.</p>

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Complete and sign application on front side of this form.

Provide a copy of: **(DO NOT SEND ORIGINALS)**

- _____ Proof of residency (Any document showing name and home address)
- _____ DD Form 214 indicating Honorable Discharge
- _____ Evidence of active duty service in qualifying areas or contiguous waters or airspace

Submit completed application and documents to:

The Adjutant General
 New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
 ATTN: DVP-VBB
 PO Box 340
 Trenton, NJ 08625-0340

NEW JERSEY'S OPERATION RECOGNITION

WORLD WAR II, KOREAN, AND VIETNAM VETERANS APPLICATION FOR NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

SECTION I

VETERAN'S FIRST NAME:	VETERAN'S LAST NAME	VETERAN'S MIDDLE
-----------------------	---------------------	------------------

SOCIAL SECURITY #:	DATE OF BIRTH:	TELEPHONE #:
--------------------	----------------	--------------

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:	COUNTY:
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SECTION II

NAME AND CITY/STATE OF HIGH SCHOOL THE VETERAN ATTENDED PRIOR TO ENTERING MILITARY SERVICE:

DATE ATTENDED THIS HIGH SCHOOL:

DATE VETERAN ENTERED MILITARY SERVICE:

SECTION III

VETERAN'S BRANCH OF SERVICE ACHIEVED:

HIGHEST RANK:

DATES OF SERVICE: (Optional)

COPY OF DD214: (Discharge) Attached?

MAIL DIPLOMA:

YES / NO

YES / NO

SECTION IV

SIGNATURE OF VETERAN APPLYING FOR DIPLOMA:

DATE:

SECTION V

COMPLETE ONLY IF APPLYING ON BEHALF OF A DECEASED VETERAN.

NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE OF NEXT OF KIN APPLYING FOR NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ON BEHALF OF A DECEASED WWII, KOREAN, AND VIETNAM ERA VETERANS.

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

TELEPHONE #:

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:

SIGNATURE OF NEXT OF KIN APPLYING FOR DIPLOMA:

DATE: _____

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND BY NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

SIGNATURE OF NJ DMAVA OFFICER:

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE OF NJ DOE OR LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICER:

DATE: _____

DIPLOMA ISSUED: _____

Submit completed applications to:

**Patricia Richter, Administrative Assistant
Division of Veterans Programs
New Jersey Department of Military & Veterans Affairs
PO Box 340
Trenton, NJ 08625-0340
Phone: (609) 530-6854**

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS

APPLICATION FOR VETERAN DESIGNATION FOR PENSION

INSTRUCTIONS

• Please print or type all answers. • Sign your name at the bottom of the application. • Please mail this form and a copy of your Veteran's Separation Papers (DD Form 214) to NJ Dept of Military & Veterans' Affairs, ATTN: DVP-VBB, P.O. Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340 • If you do not have DD Form 214, a copy may be obtained from the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132. If your records have been destroyed, a letter from the National Personnel Records Center attesting to the destruction of your records and a notarized statement indicating the dates of active serve, branch, rank, and type of discharge, must be submitted.

1. Name (Last, first, middle initial - Please Print)	2. Social Security Number
3. Address Street City State Zip Code	4. Phone Daytime

4. Veteran Status (Attach Copy of Discharge or DD Form 214)	
a. Date of Induction	b. Date of Discharge

5. Retirement System: (Check block that applies to retirement system that you are enrolled in)
<input type="checkbox"/> Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) <input type="checkbox"/> Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) <input type="checkbox"/> Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS)

REMARKS (Optional)

CERTIFICATION: I certify that the statements made by me to the foregoing questions are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. If any of the statements in this application are false, I am aware that I am subject to criminal proceedings.

SIGNATURE: DATE:

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DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS